



SAPTARSHI

The Seven Supreme Sages



DILIP
KADAM



The route to your roots
Founder Editor: Anant Pai

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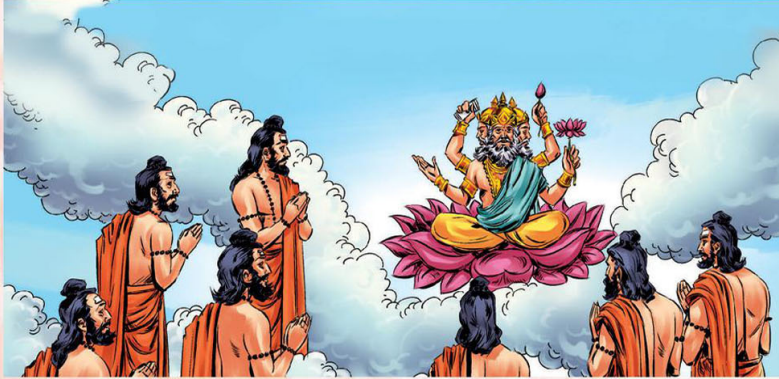
The best of modern Indian literature

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SAPTARSHI

The Seven Supreme Sages

CYCLE OF TIME

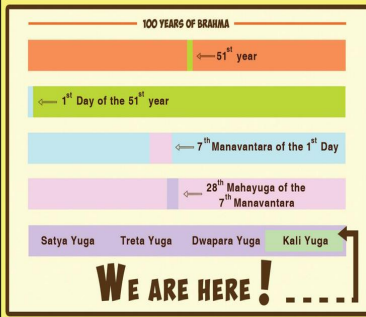
There are **24 HOURS** in a day and **365 DAYS** in a year, but that's just here on **EARTH**.

How long are **BRAHMA'S DAYS AND YEARS**, and how much does he accomplish as the creator of the universe?



BRAHMA

lives for 100 Brahma years, after which he is replaced by a new Brahma. Each Brahma year is made up of 360 Brahma days and nights called



KALPAS



KALPA DAY

Every Kalpa day, Brahma creates Svargaloka (Heaven), Bhuloka (Earth) and Patalaloka (the Netherworld).



KALPA NIGHT

Every Kalpa night, Brahma sleeps and there is pralaya, or complete destruction.

14

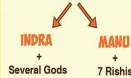
MANAVANTARAS

(One Manvantara is the lifespan of a **MANU**)

MANU is the original ancestor of mankind.

EACH MANAVANTARA

Brahma creates



72 MAHAYUGAS

ONE MAHAYUGA

4,320,000 YRS

Satya Yuga	Treta Yuga	Dwapara Yuga	Kali Yuga
1,440,000 yrs	1,080,000 yrs	720,000 yrs	360,000 yrs



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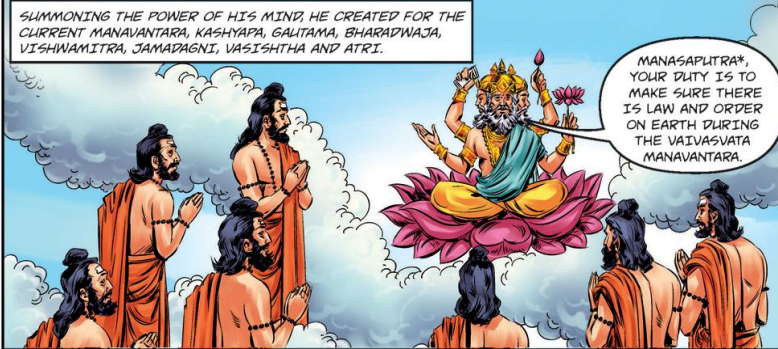
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ATRI AND ANASUYA

IN EVERY MANAVANTARA BRAHMA SELECTS SEVEN SAGES, OR SAPTARSHI, AS CARETAKERS OF THE WORLD.

SUMMONING THE POWER OF HIS MIND, HE CREATED FOR THE CURRENT MANAVANTARA, KASHYAPA, GAITAMA, BHARADWAJA, VISHWAMITRA, JAMADAGNI, VASISHTHA AND ATRI.



MANASAPUTRA*, YOUR DUTY IS TO MAKE SURE THERE IS LAW AND ORDER ON EARTH DURING THE VAIVASVATA MANAVANTARA.



ATRI, YOU WILL BE KNOWN FOR YOUR HONESTY AND PIETY.

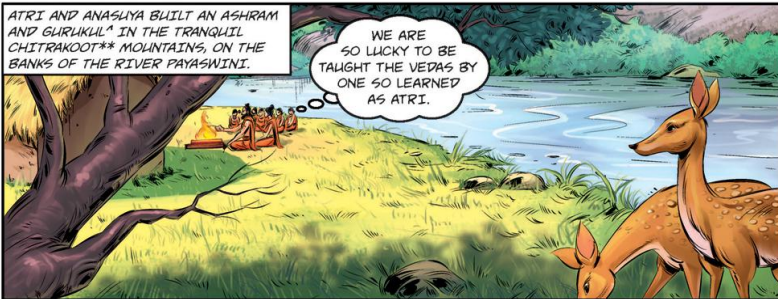
LORD, I WILL DEVOTE MYSELF COMPLETELY TO THE WELFARE OF MANKIND.

ATRI MARRIED ANASUYA, THE DAUGHTER OF SAGE KARDAMA.



MAY YOU BOTH LIVE IN HARMONY.

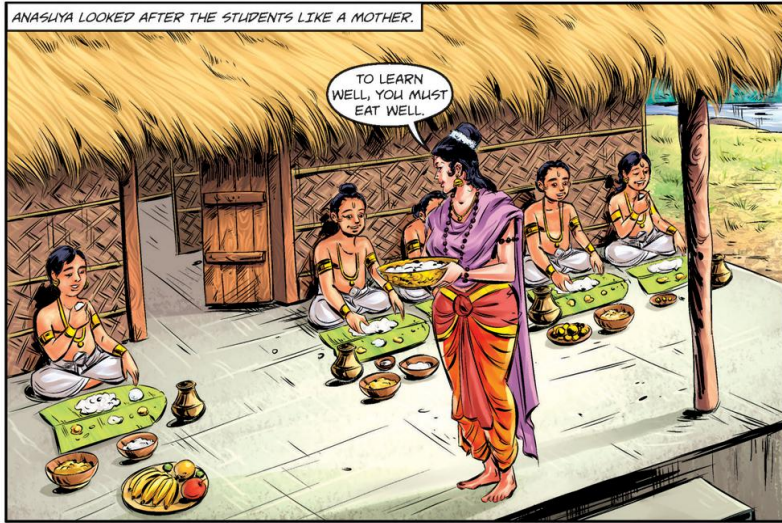
ATRI AND ANASUYA BUILT AN ASHRAM AND GURUKUL* IN THE TRANQUIL CHITRAKOOT** MOUNTAINS, ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER PAYASWINI.

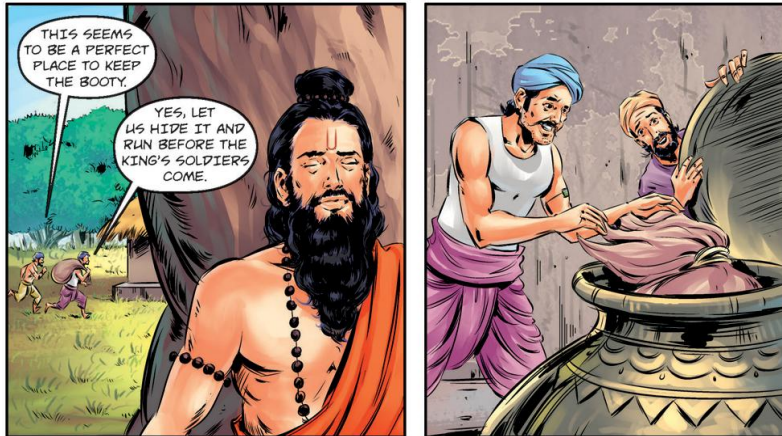
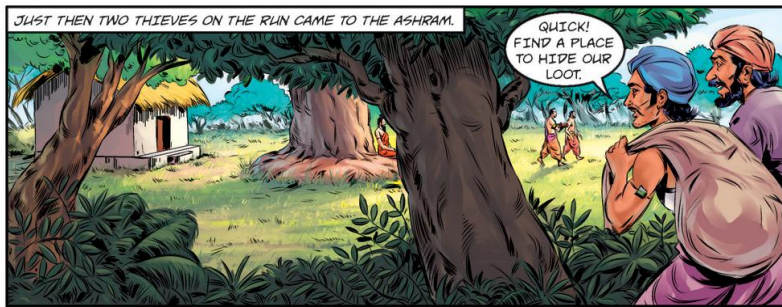
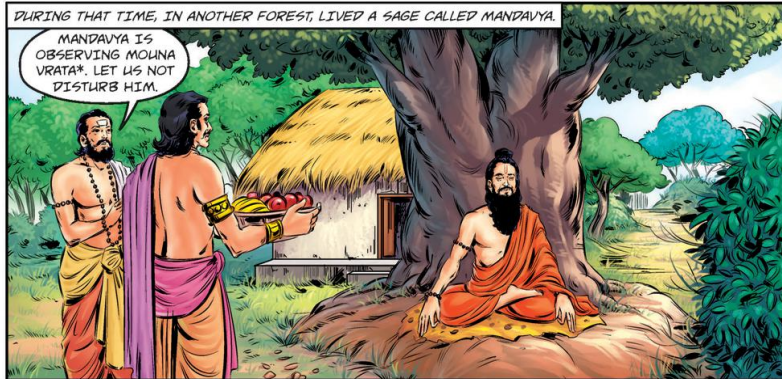


WE ARE SO LUCKY TO BE TAUGHT THE VEDAS BY ONE SO LEARNED AS ATRI.

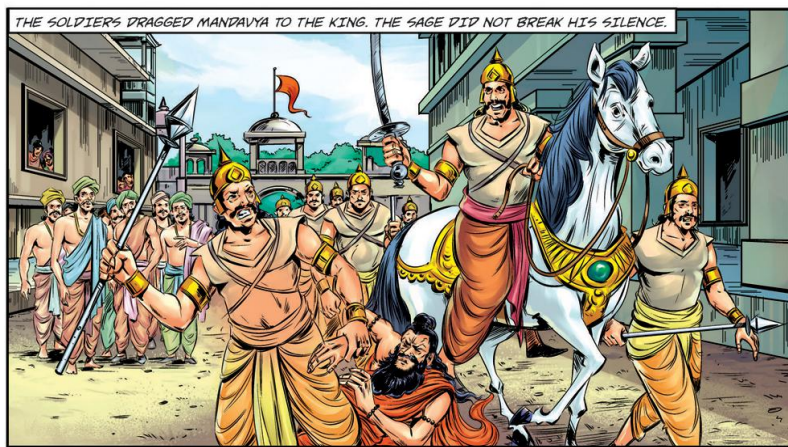
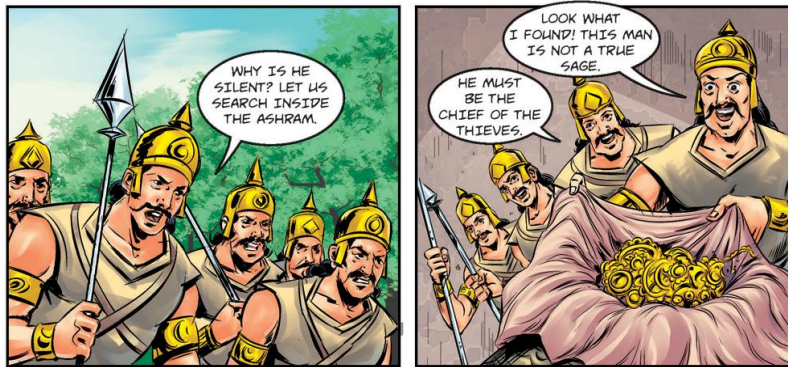
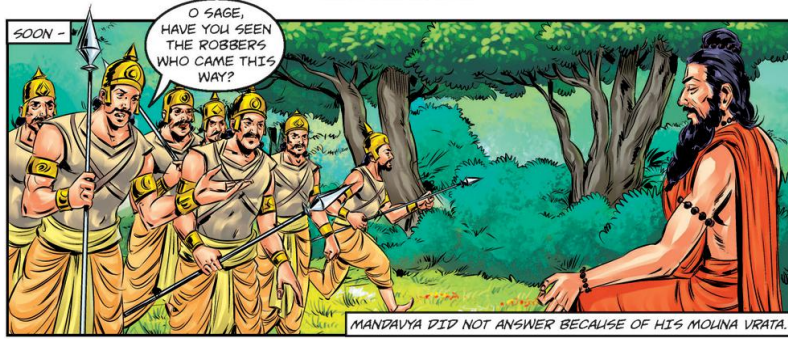
*MIND-BORN SONS
*PLACE OF LEARNING/SCHOOL

**CHITRAKOOT IS IN MODERN-DAY UTTAR PRADESH.

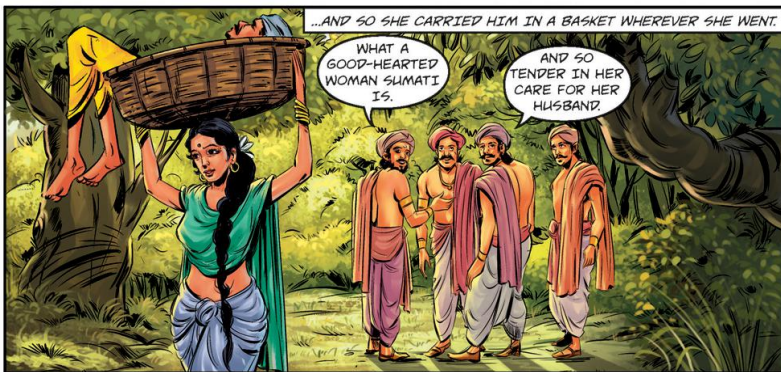
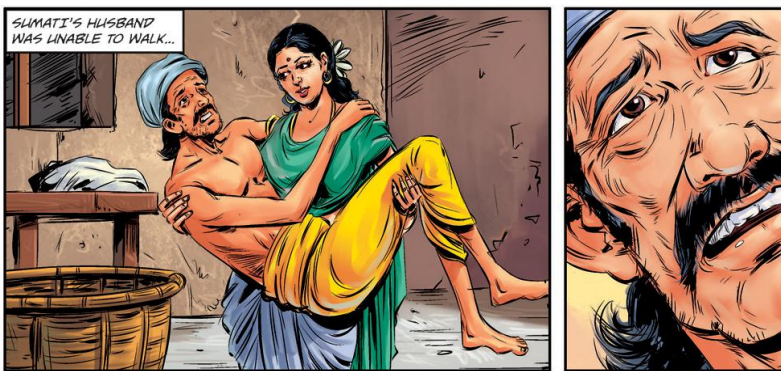
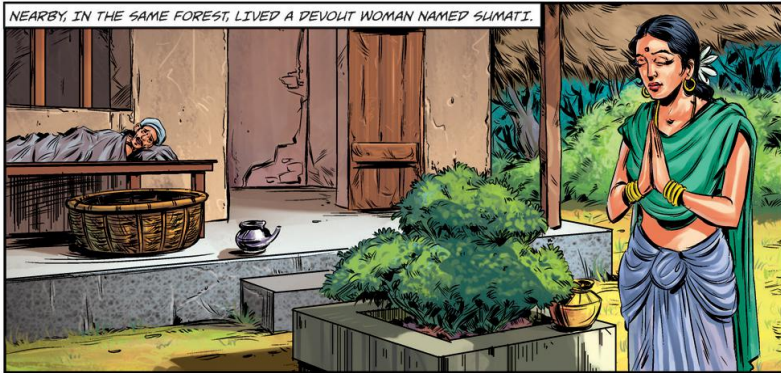


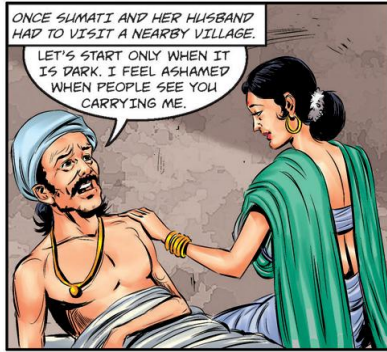


*A VOW OF SILENCE FOR A PARTICULAR PERIOD OF TIME







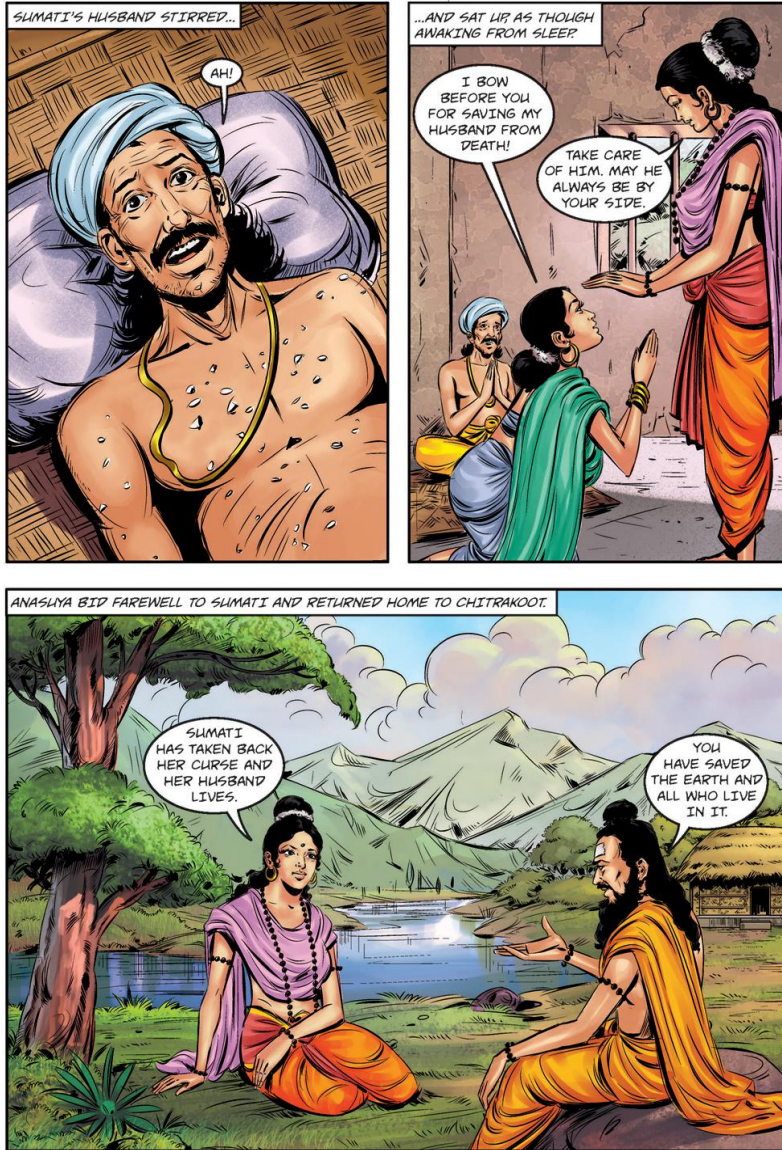


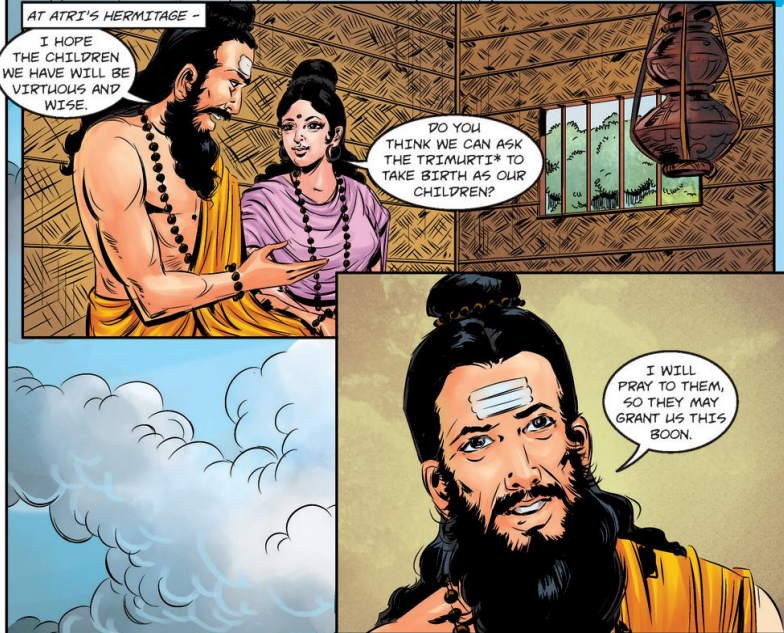




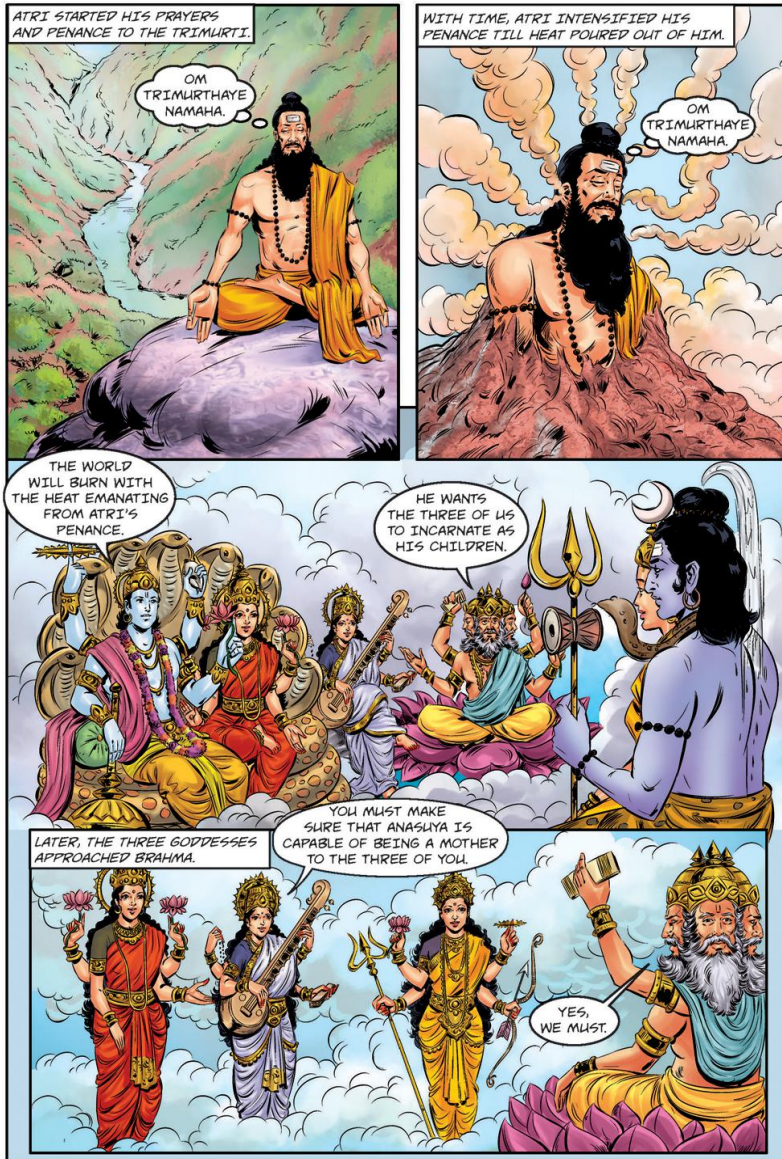


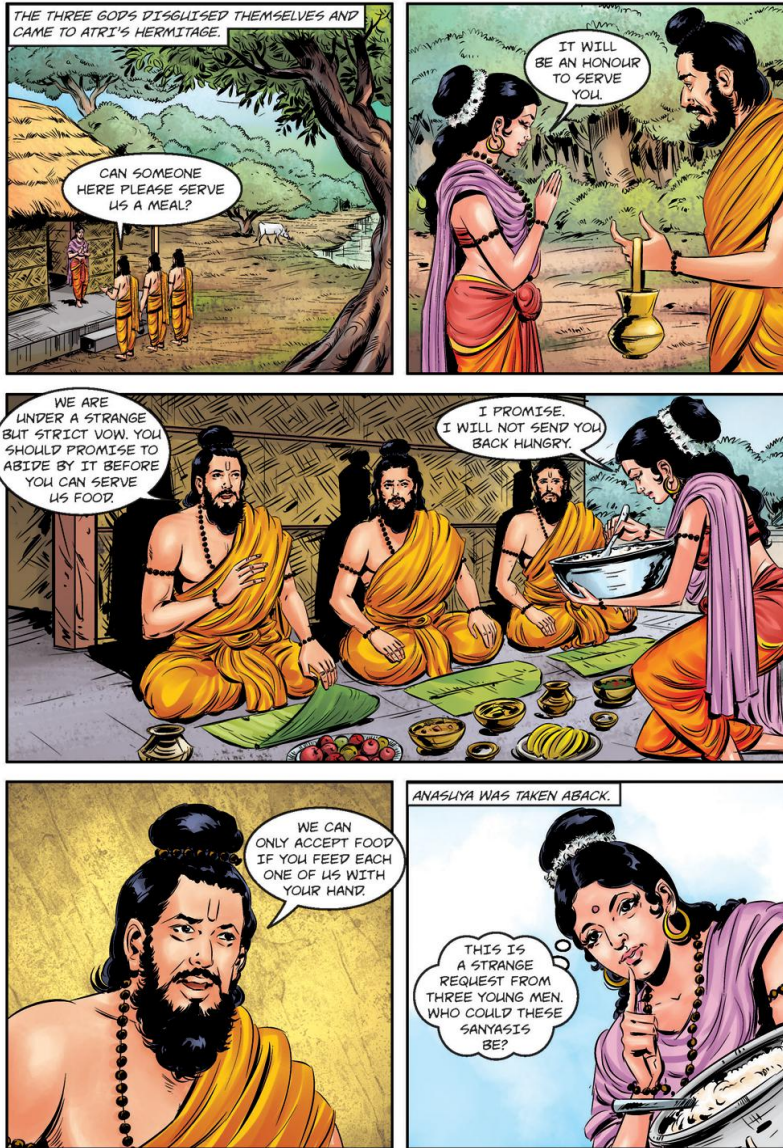




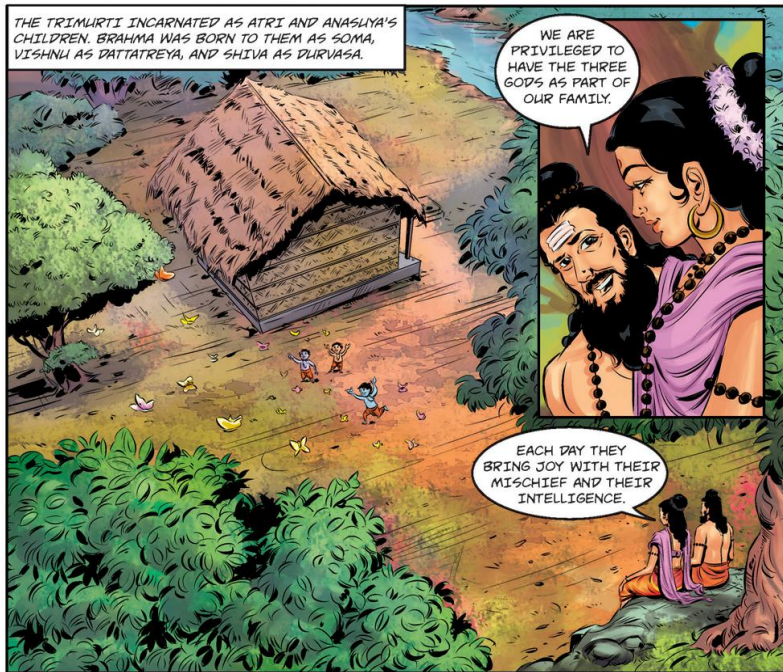
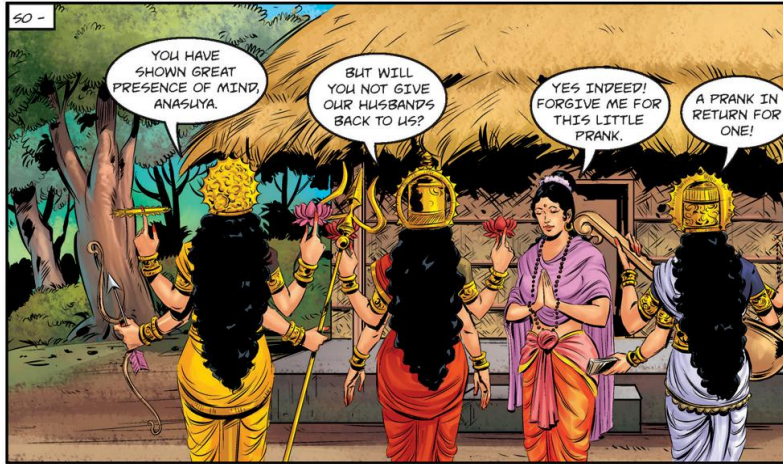


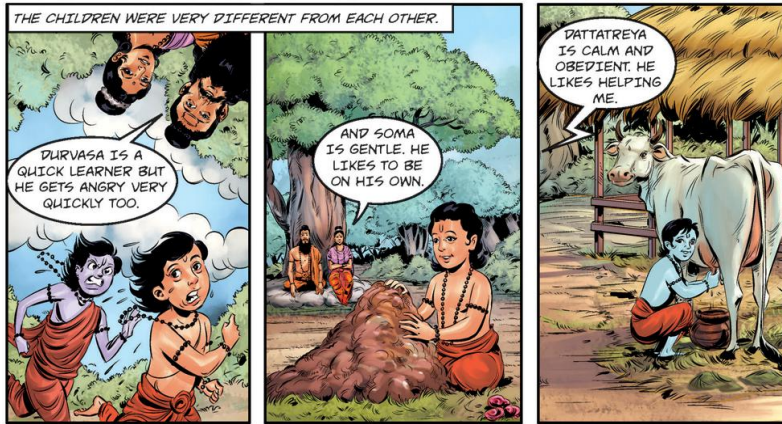
*BRAHMA, VISHNU AND SHIVA TOGETHER ARE KNOWN AS TRIMURTI.



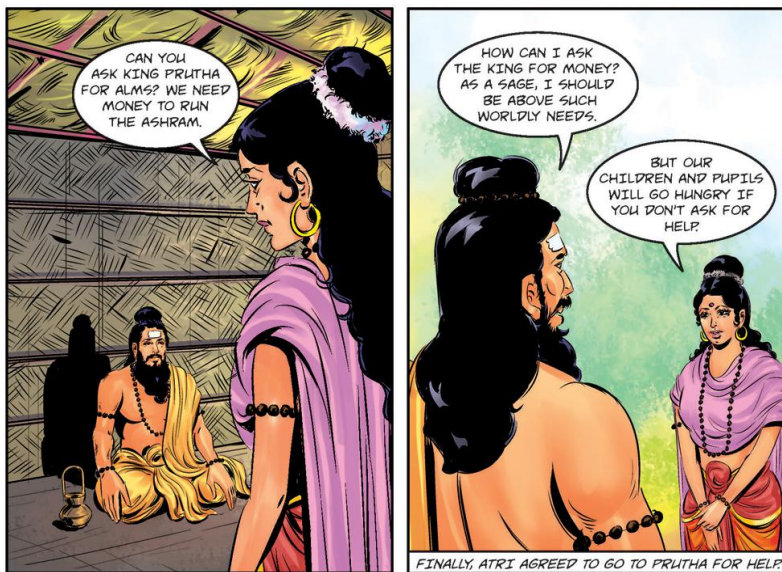


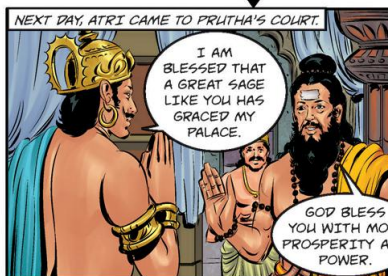
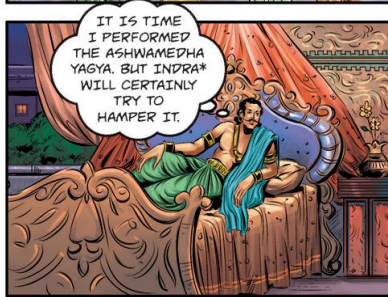
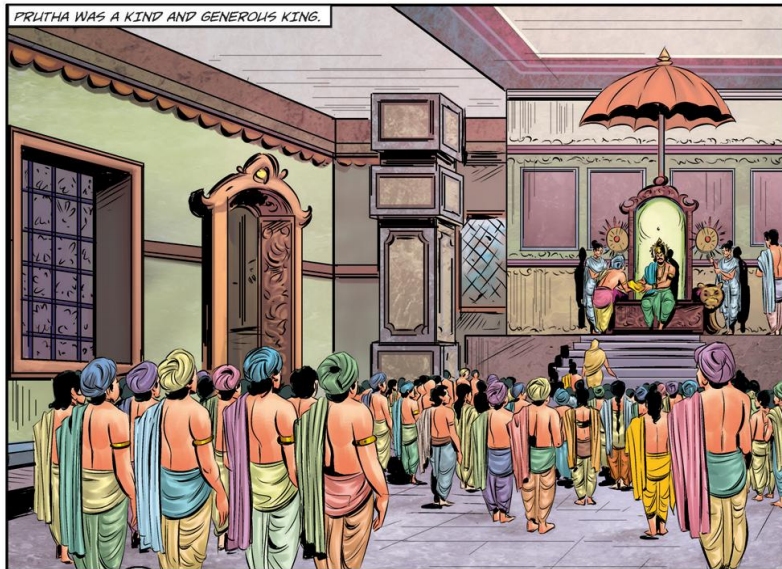




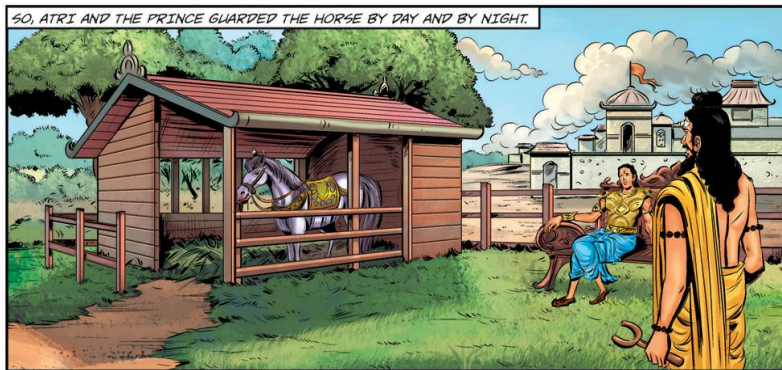
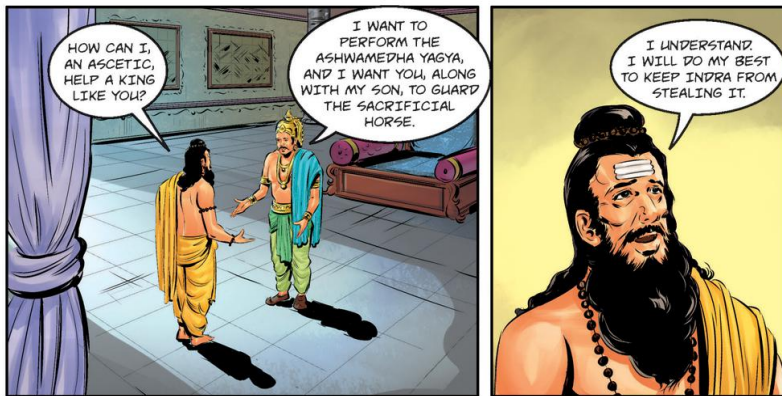
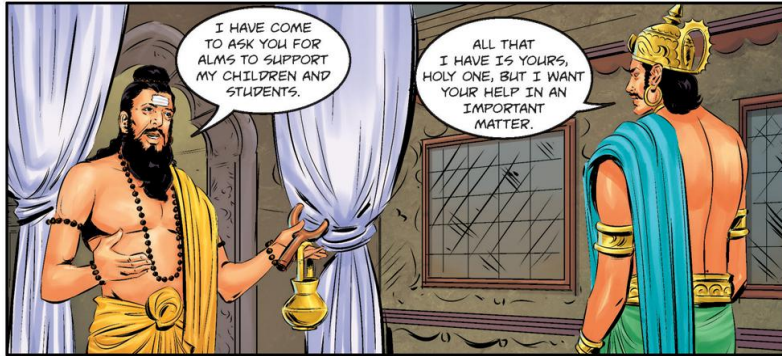


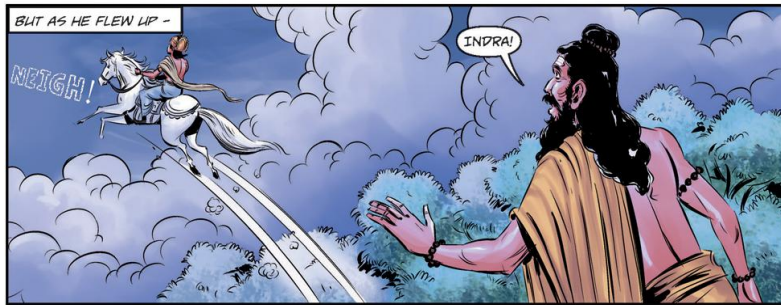
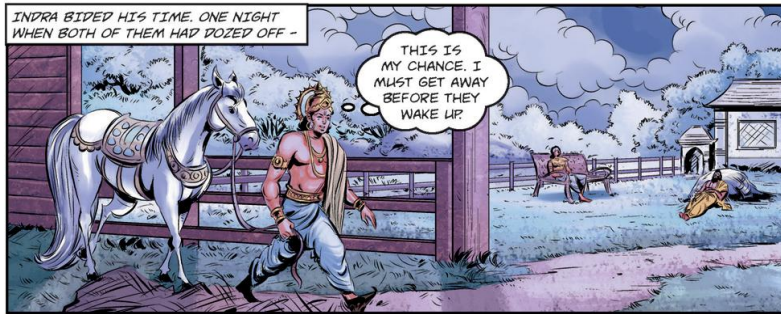
*CHANDRA WAS BORN FROM THE CHURNING OF THE OCEAN, WHILE SOMA ALSO CALLED CHANDRA IS THE SON OF ATRI. SOMA MERGES WITH CHANDRA TO BECOME ONE.

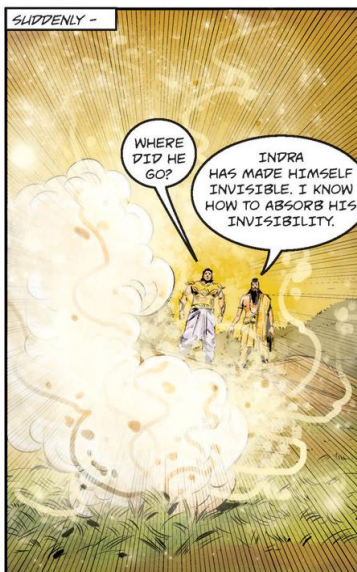
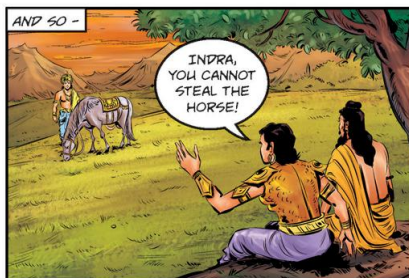


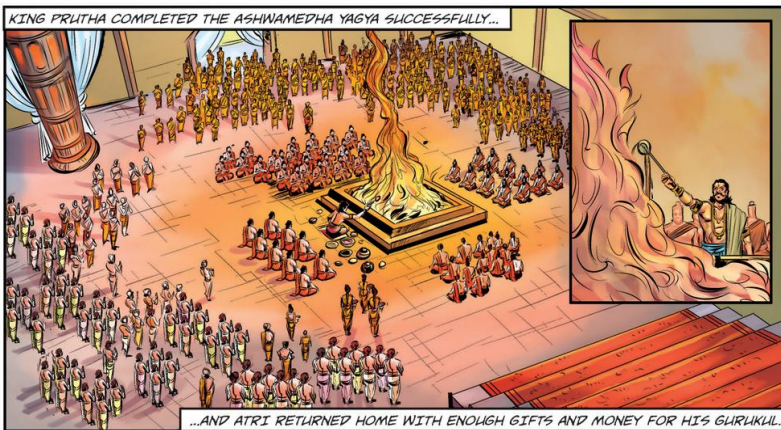
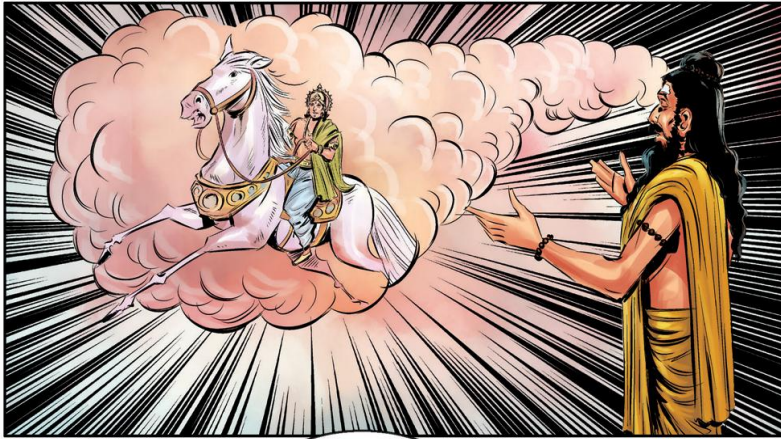


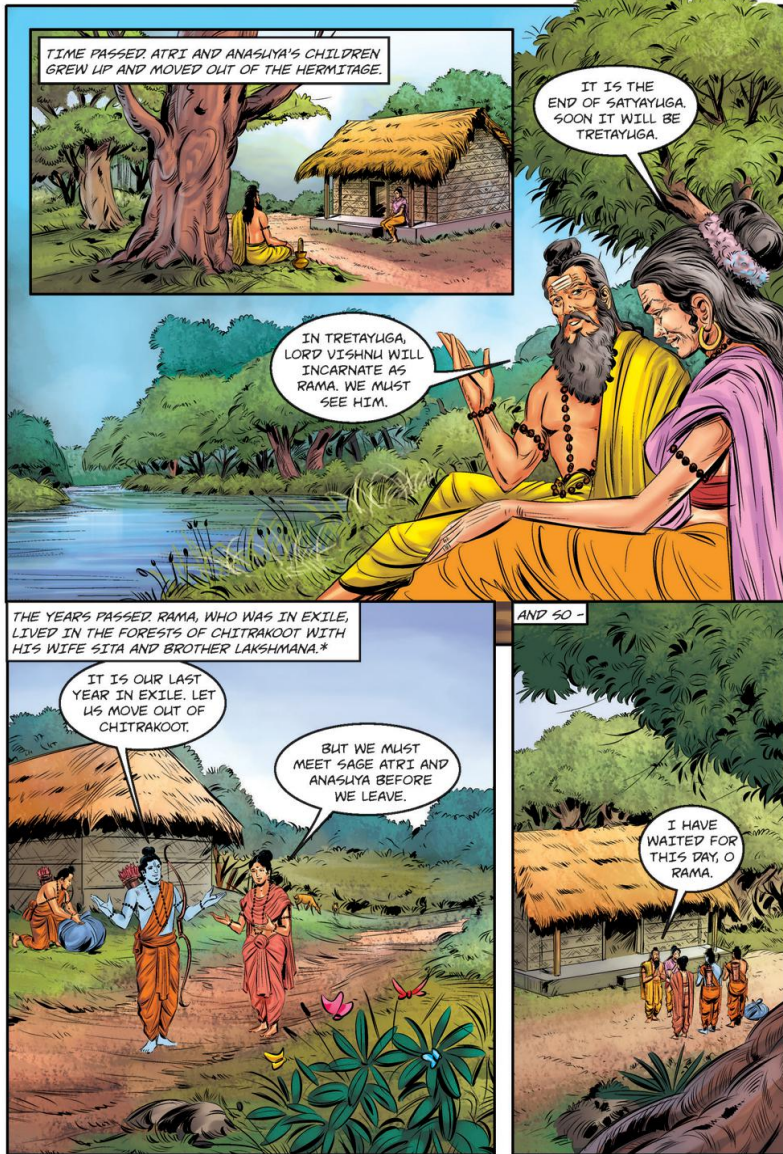
*THOSE WHO DID A HUNDRED ASHWAMEDHA YAGYAS WOULD BECOME THE NEXT LORD OF GODS. SO INDRA, THE LORD OF GODS TRIED TO STOP ANYONE FROM COMPLETING THAT NUMBER.



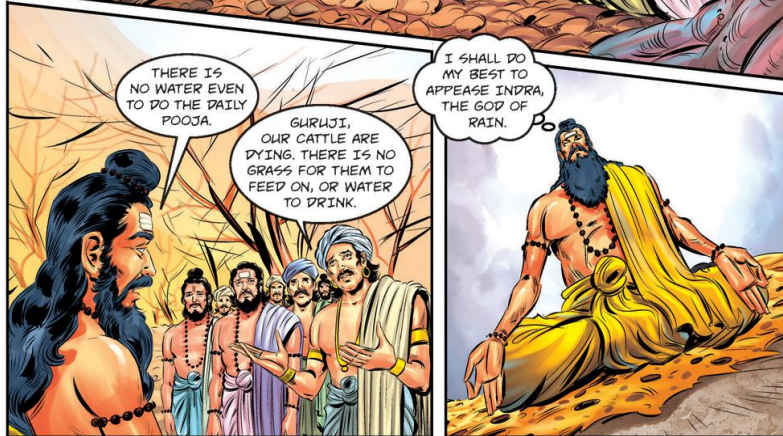
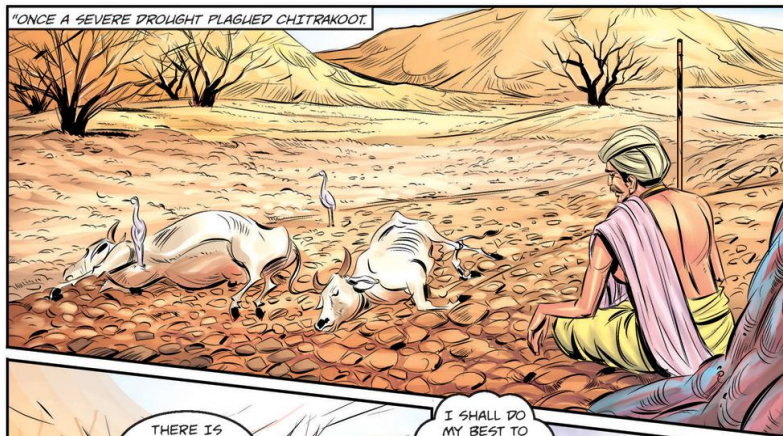
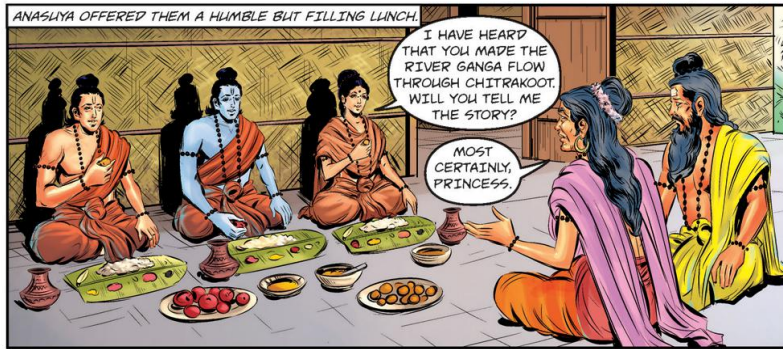


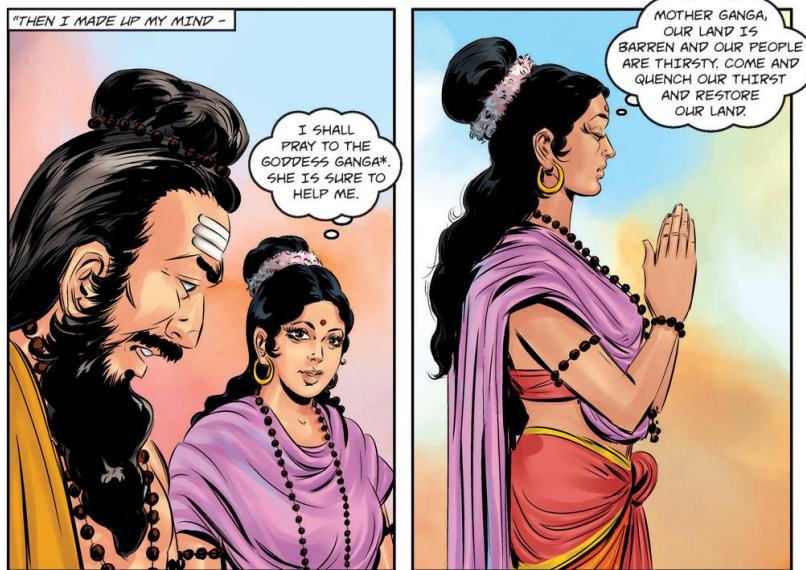
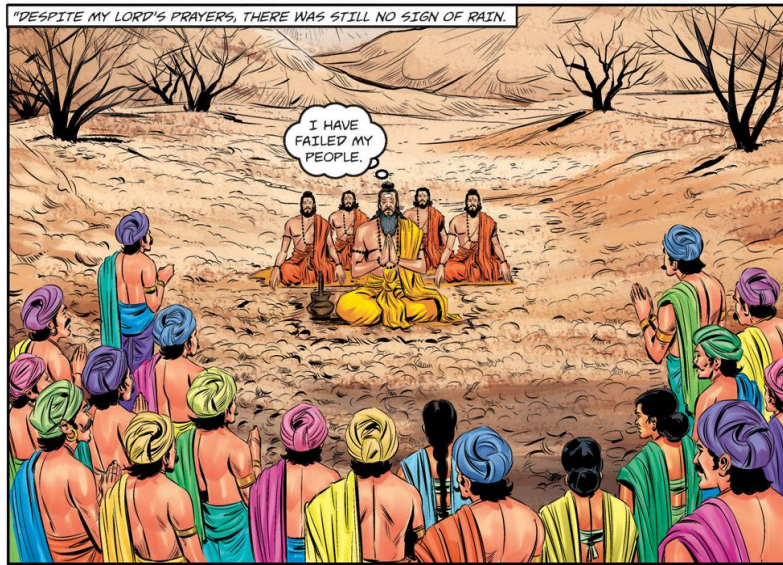




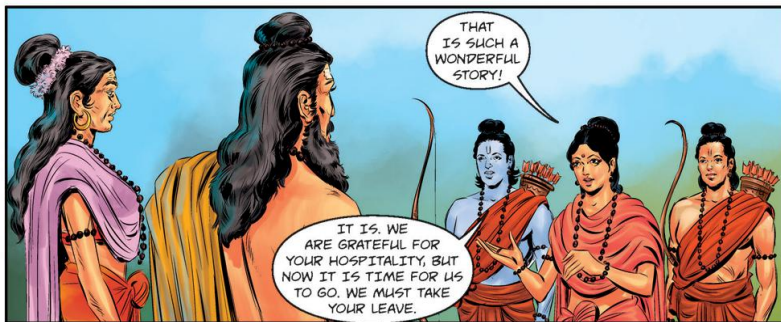
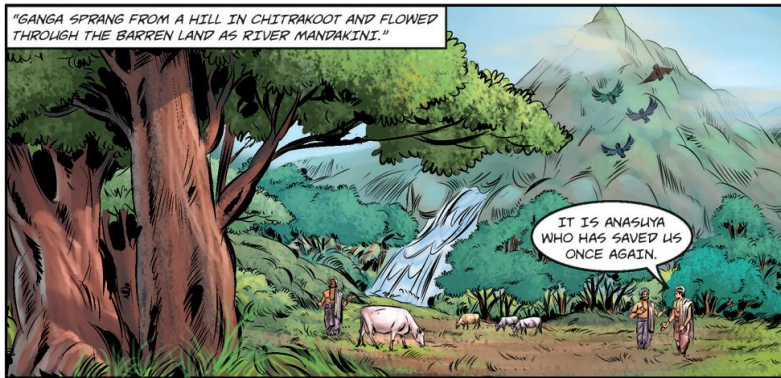


*RAMA WAS IN EXILE FOR 14 YEARS WITH LAKSHMANA AND SITA.



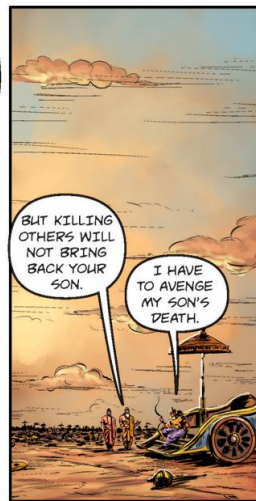
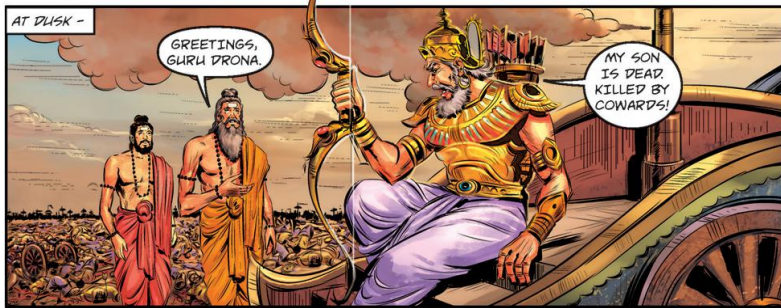


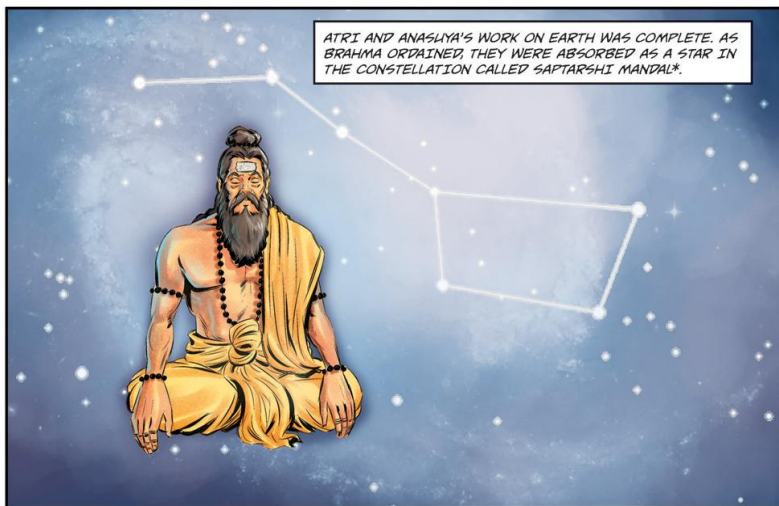
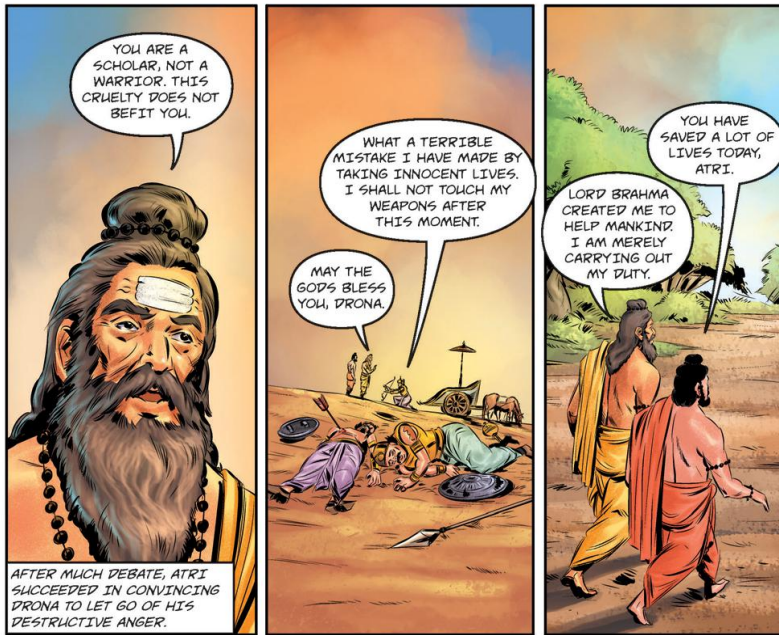
*GANGA HAD INCARNATED ON EARTH AS A HOLY RIVER.





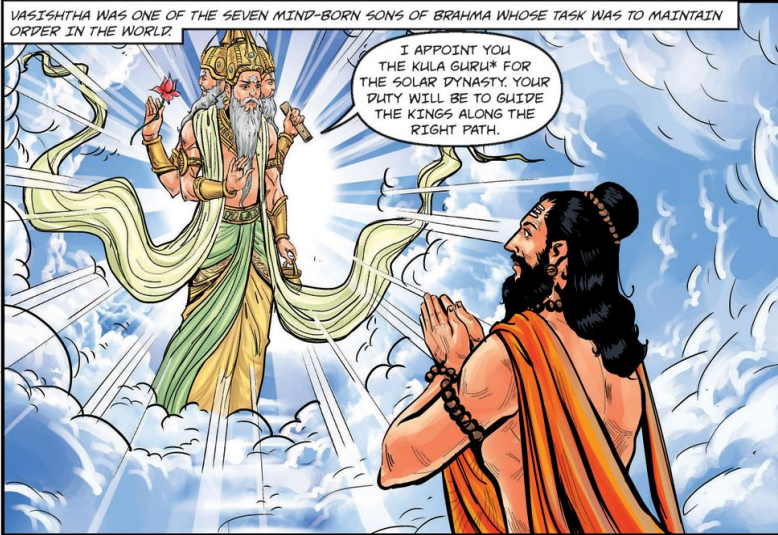
*THE MAHABHARATA WAR WAS FOUGHT BETWEEN THE KAURAVAS AND PANDAVAS AT KURUKSHETRA.





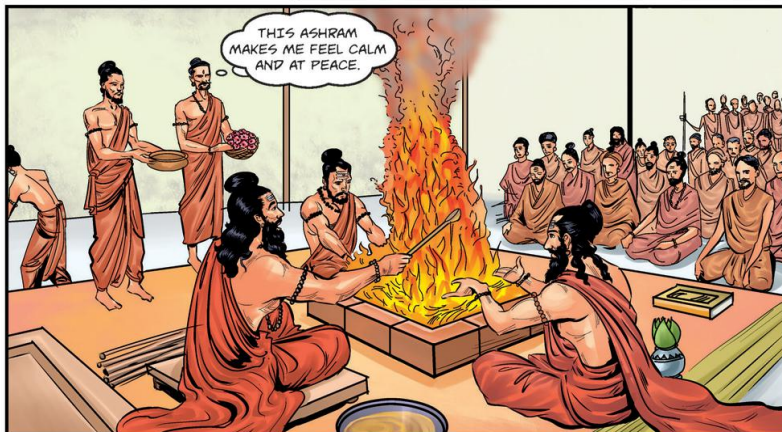
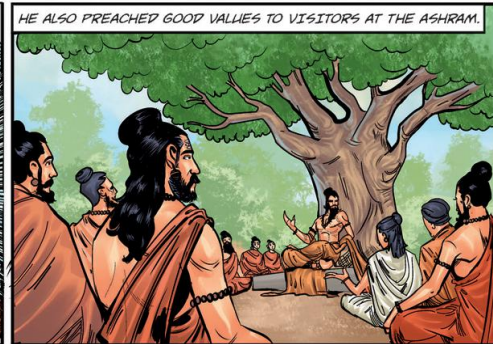
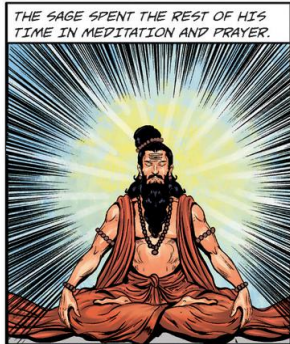
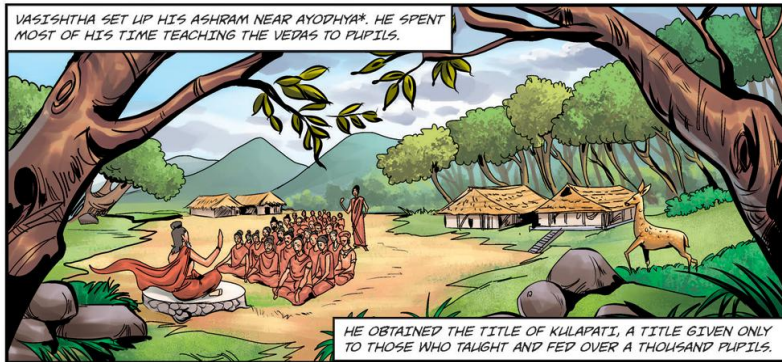
*THE FORMATION KNOWN AS THE SAPTARSHI MANDAL IN INDIA, IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE BIG DIPPER.

VASISHTHA AND ARUNDHATI



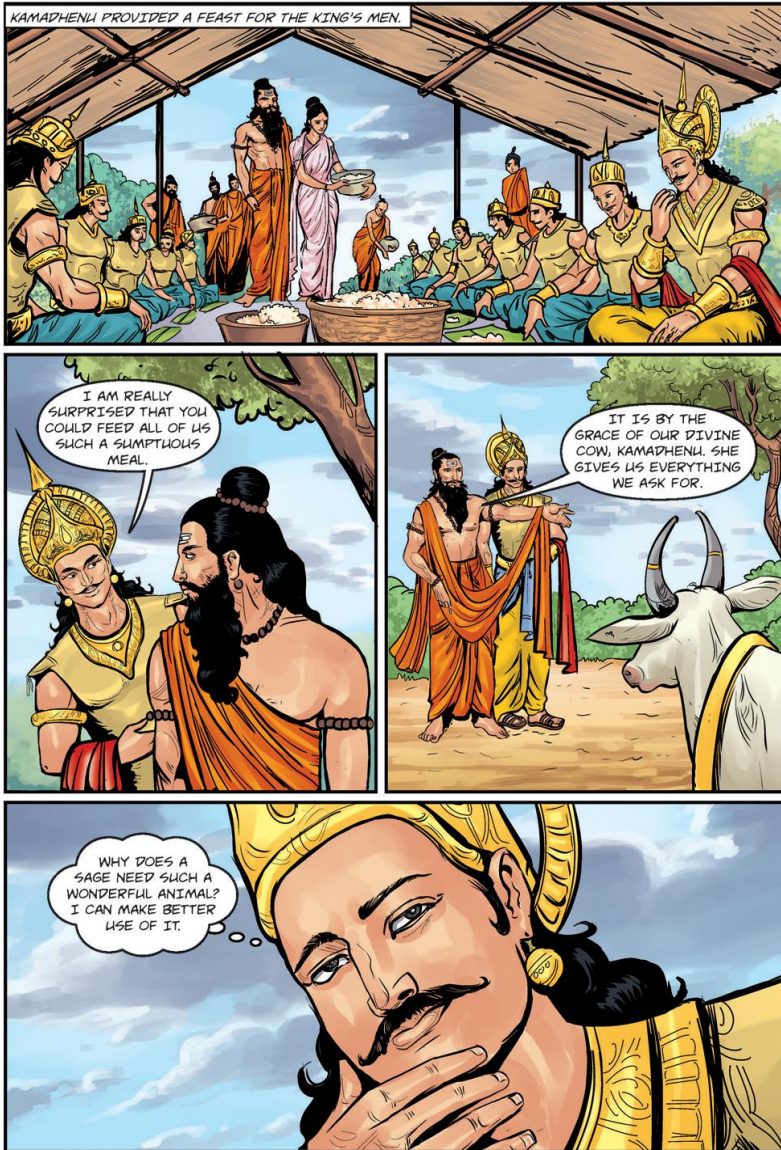
*CHIEF ADVISOR TO THE KING

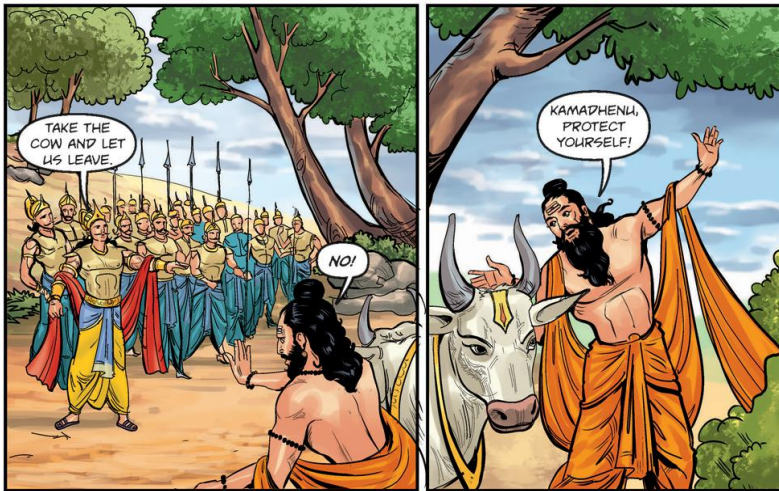
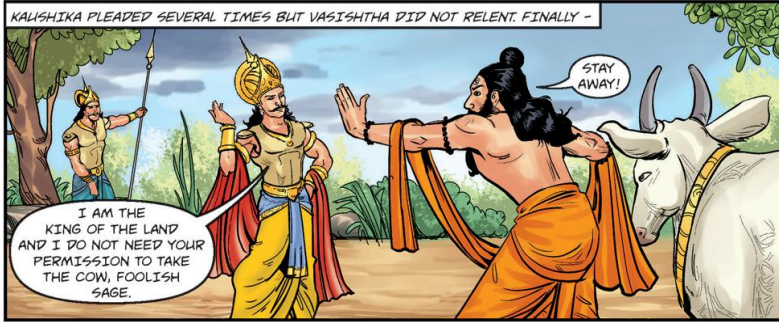
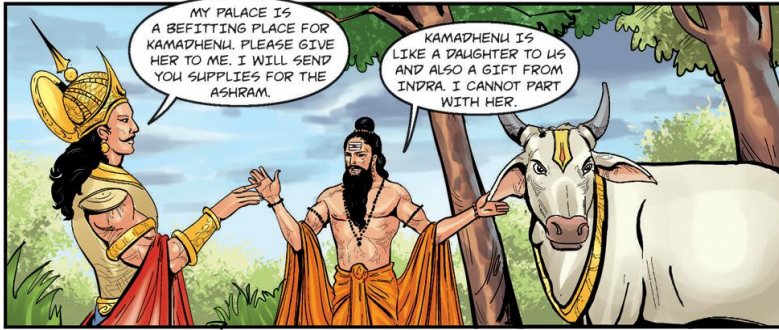
VASISHTHA AND ARUNDHATI



*THE KINGS OF THE SOLAR DYNASTY RULED THE KOSALA KINGDOM WITH AYODHYA AS THEIR CAPITAL.





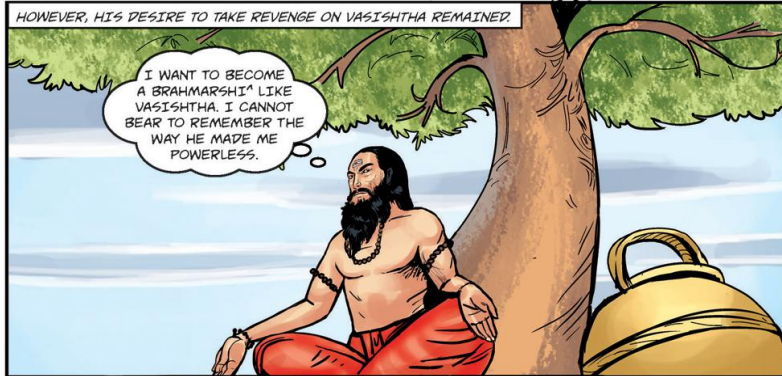
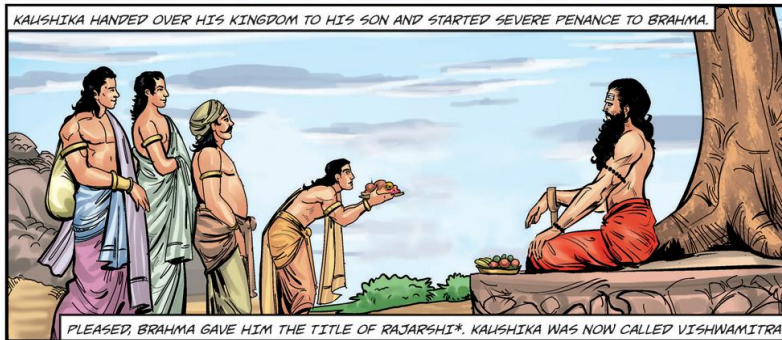
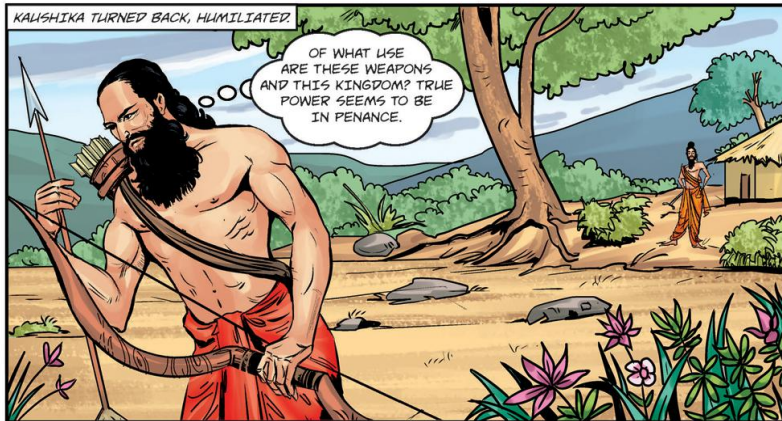




*WEAPONS INVOKED BY CHANTING VERSES

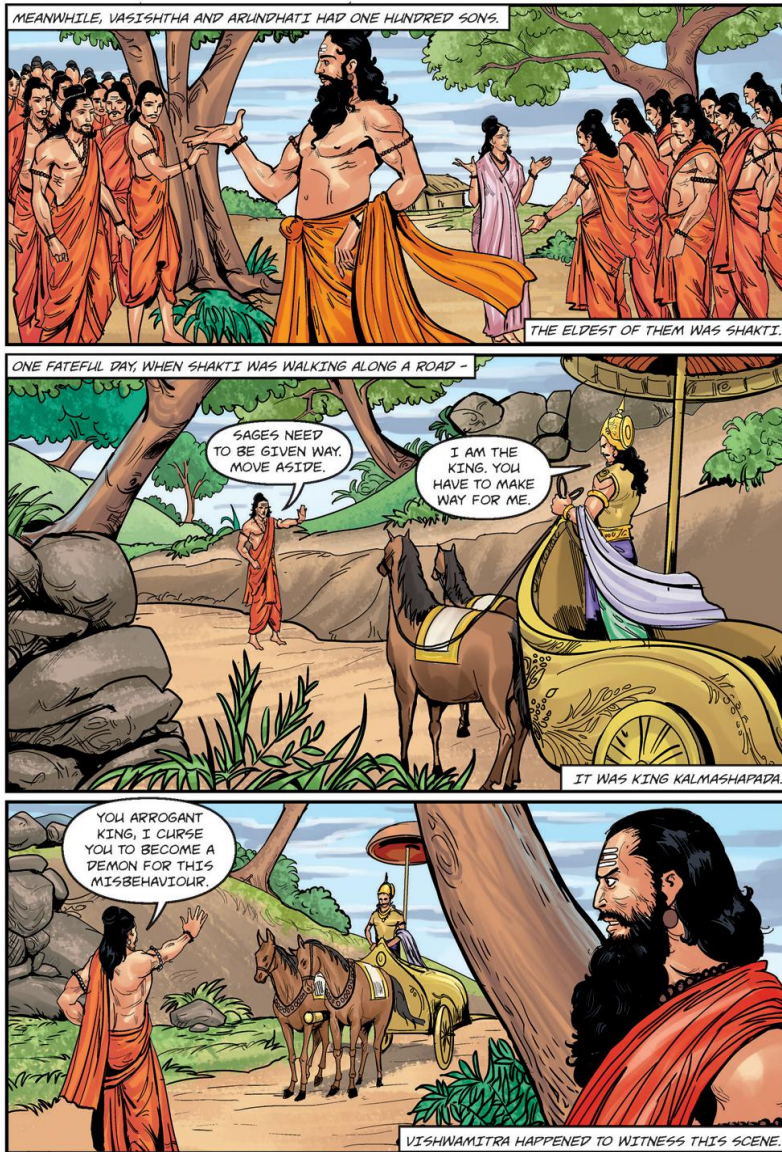


*BAMBOO ROD SYMBOLISING
BRAHMA'S STAFF



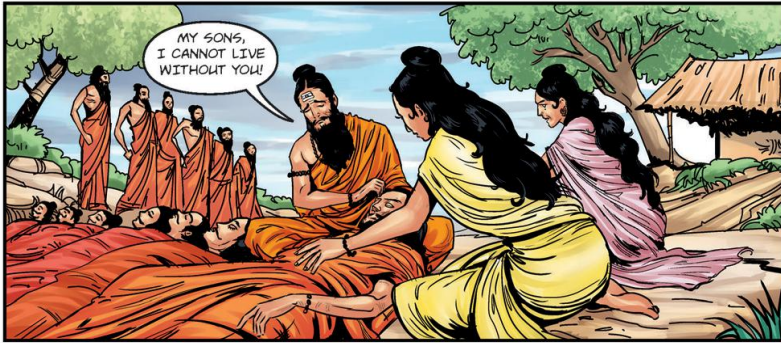
*A KING WHO RENOUNCES HIS THRONE TO BECOME A SAGE

*THE HIGHEST STATUS A SAGE CAN ACHIEVE





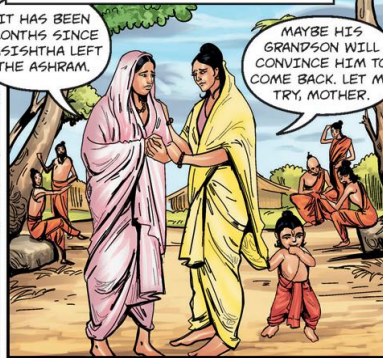


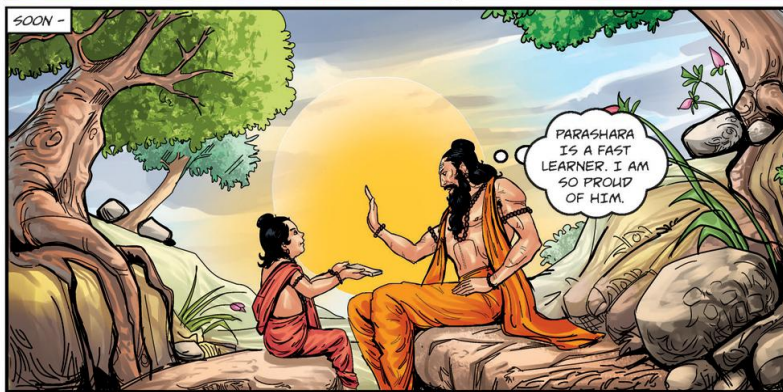
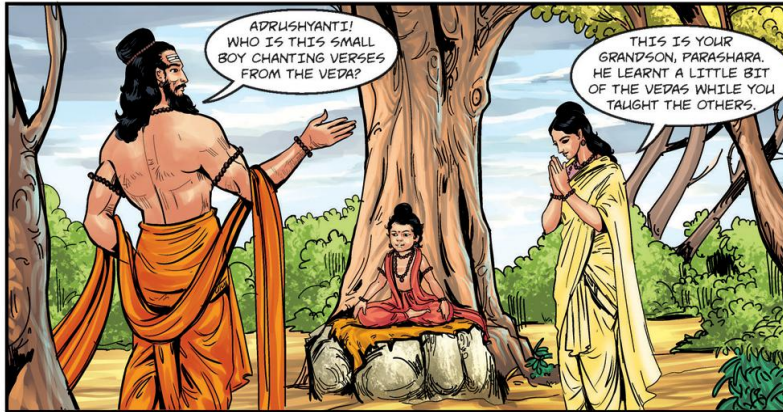


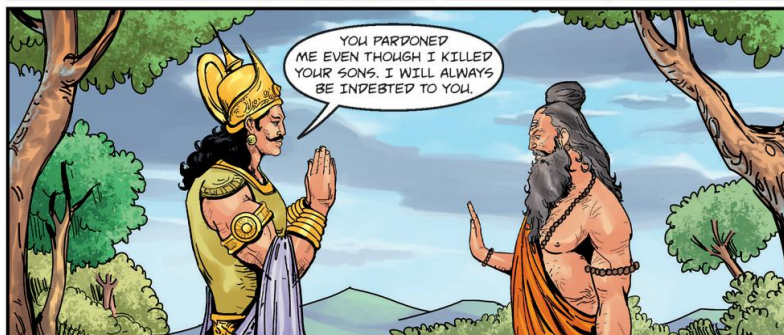
GRIEF STRICKEN, VASISHTHA STARTED
WANDERING AIMLESSLY IN THE FOREST.

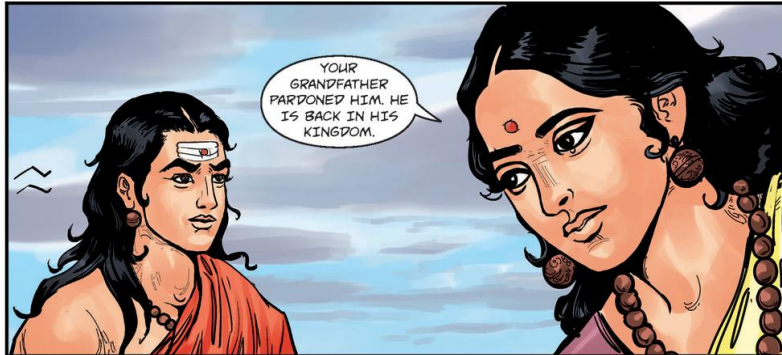
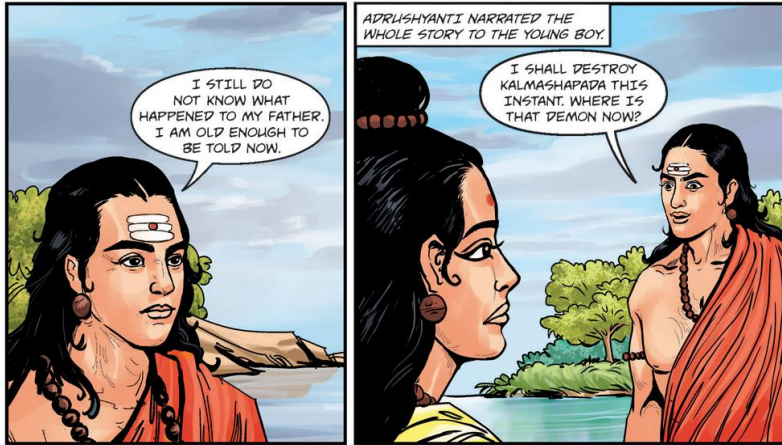
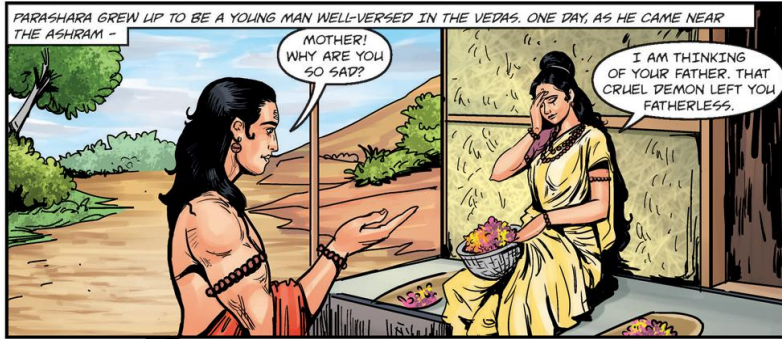


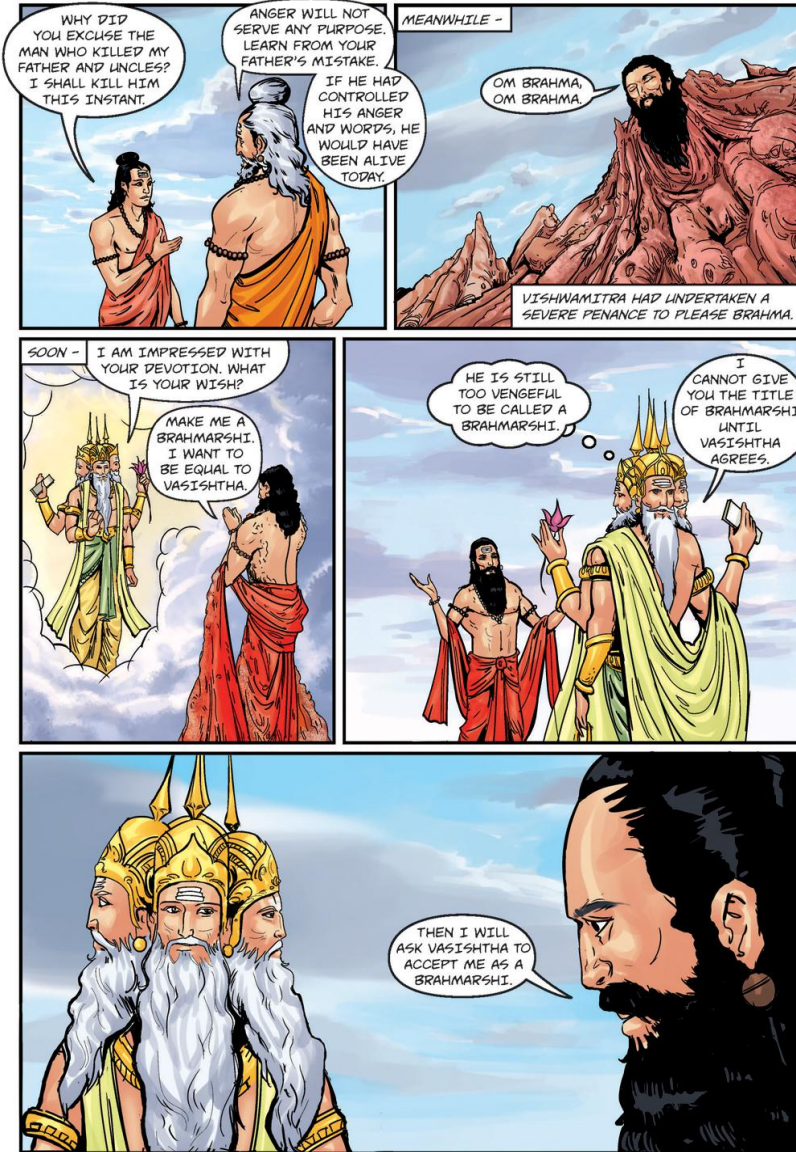
WITHOUT VASISHTHA THE ASHRAM LOOKED
FORLORN. ADIRUSHYANTI, SHAKTI'S WIFE,
TOOK CARE OF THE GRIEVING ARUNDHATI.

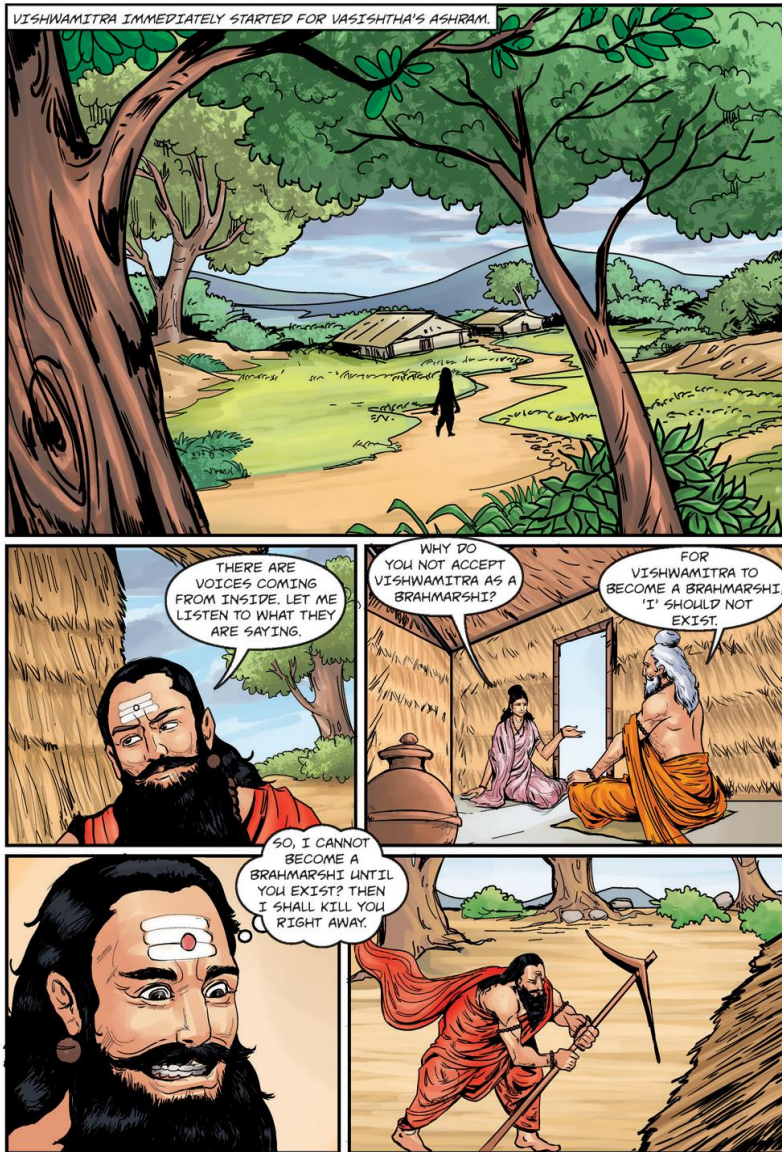


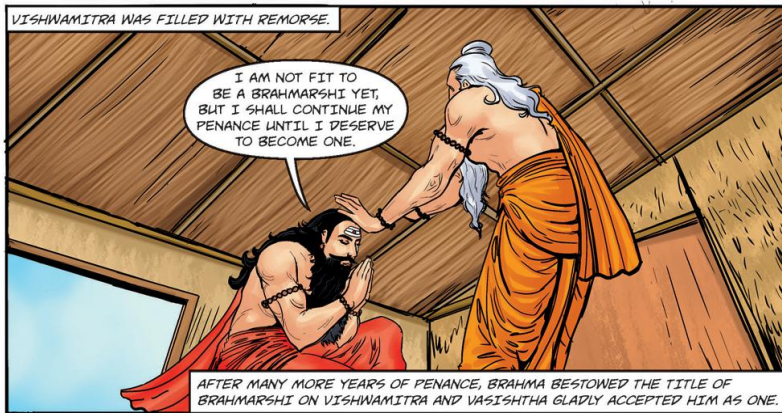
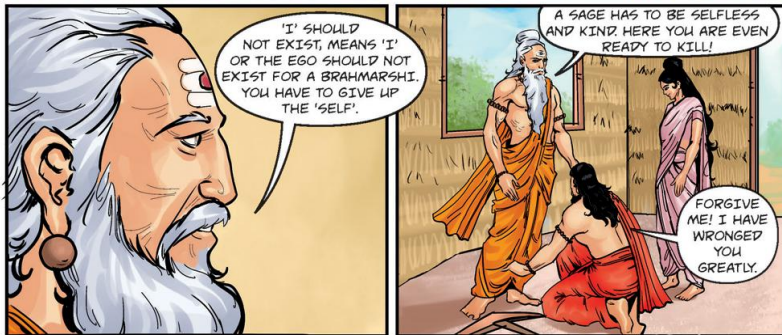
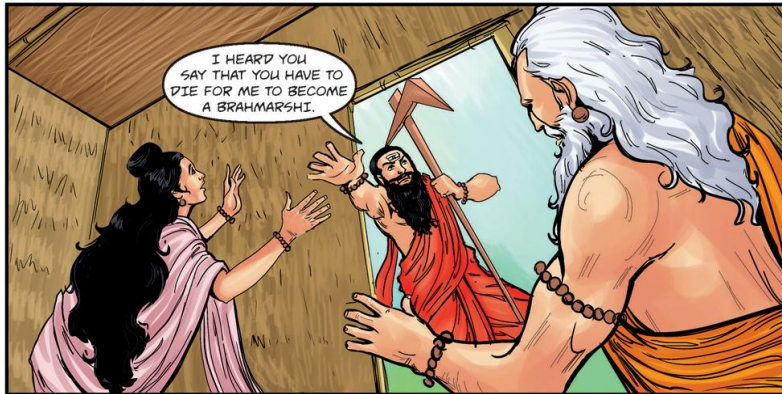


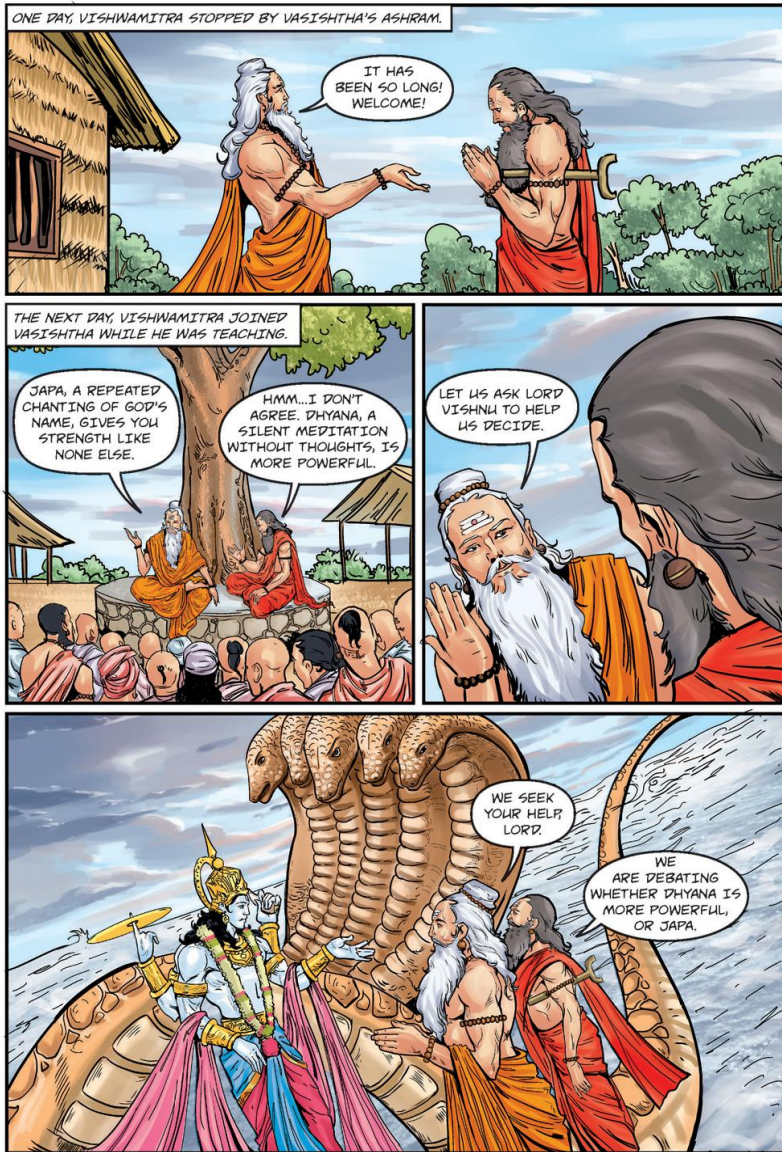


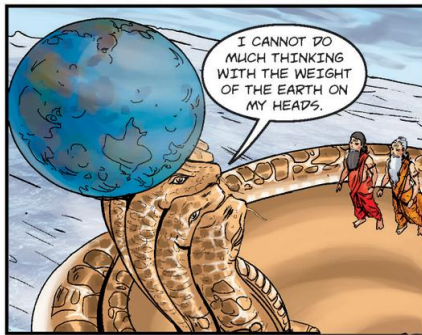




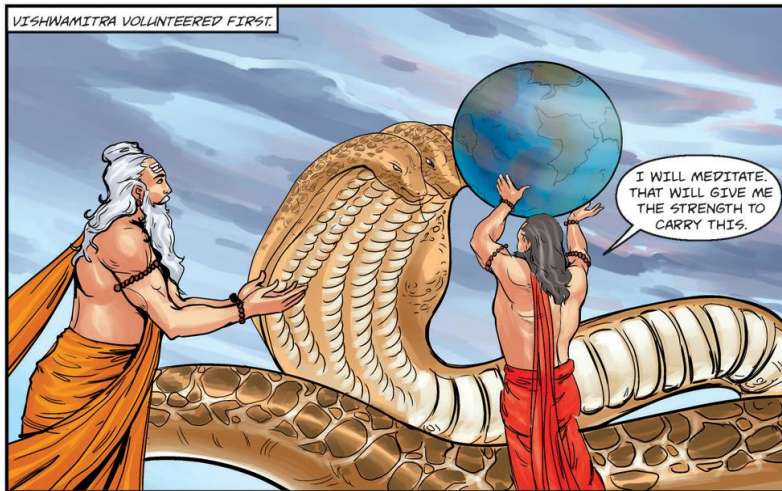






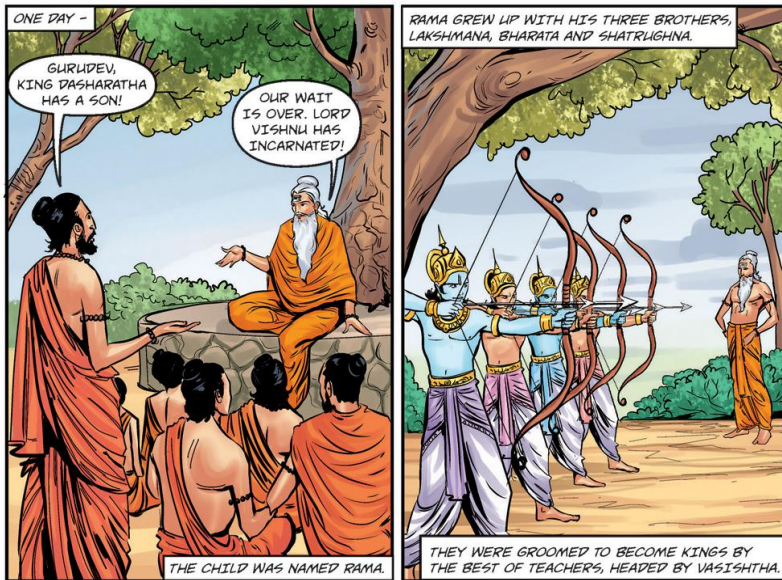
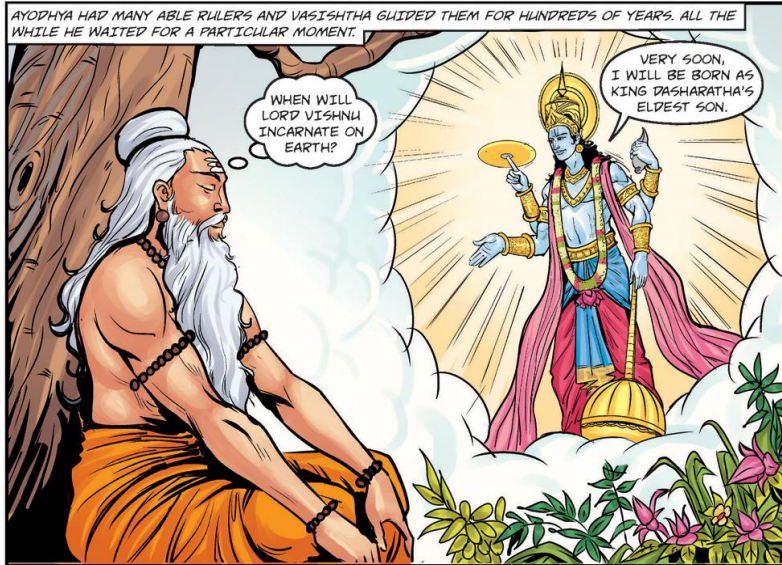


VISHNAMIKA VOLUNTEERED FIRST.

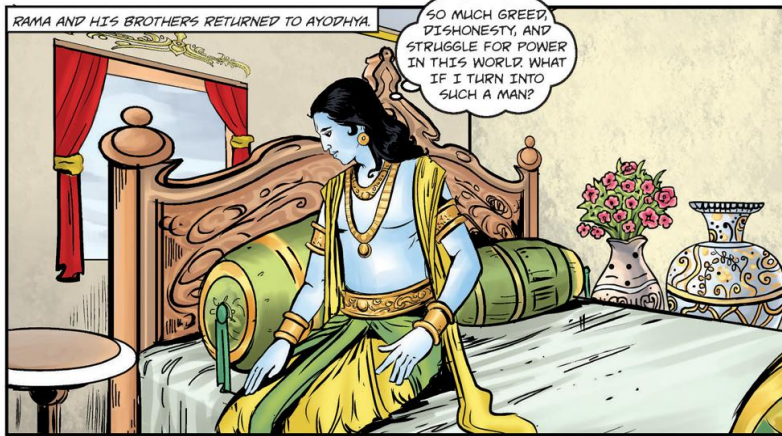


*ADISHESHA IS THE KING OF SERPENTS AND VISHNU RESTS ON HIM AS HE FLOATS ON THE OCEAN OF MILK. HE ALSO CARRIES THE EARTH ON HIS HEADS.

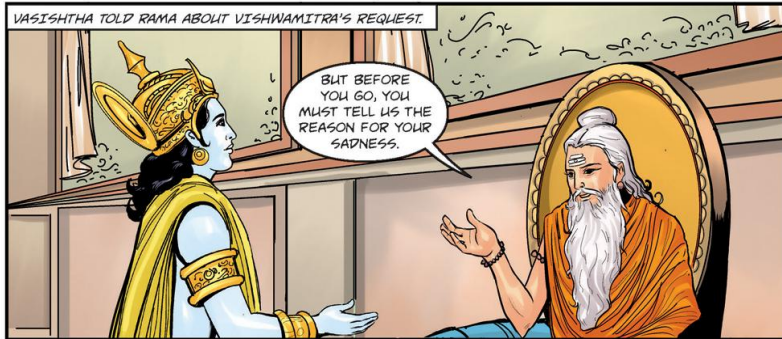
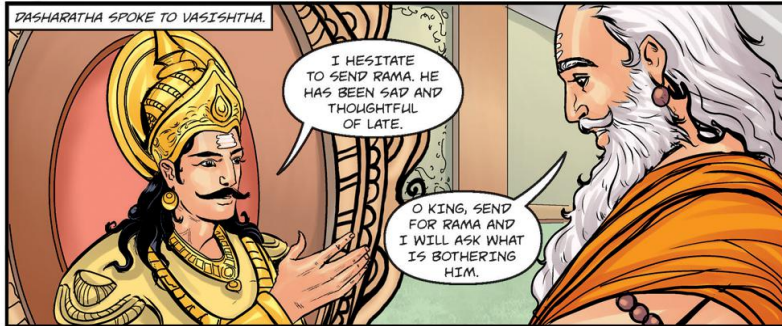


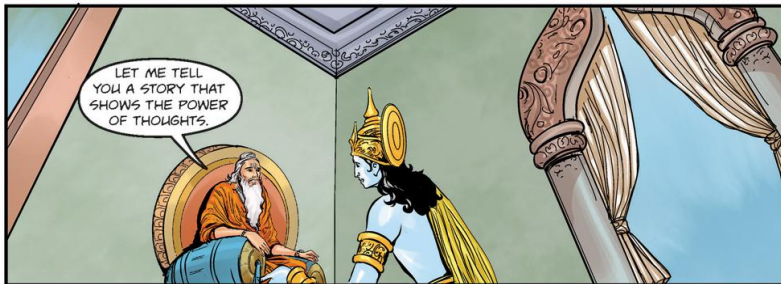
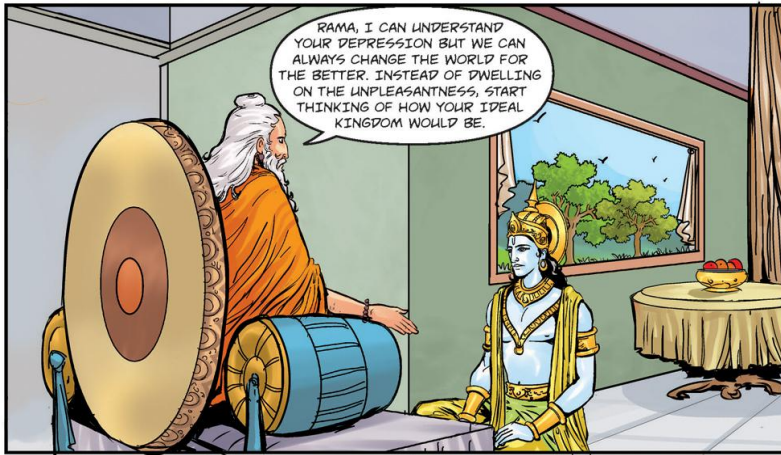




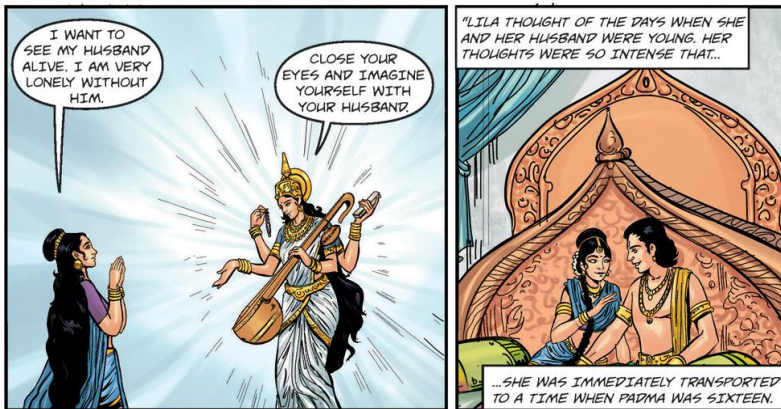
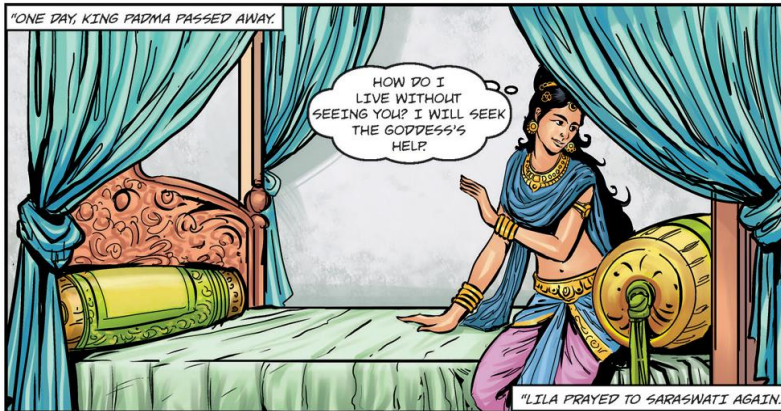
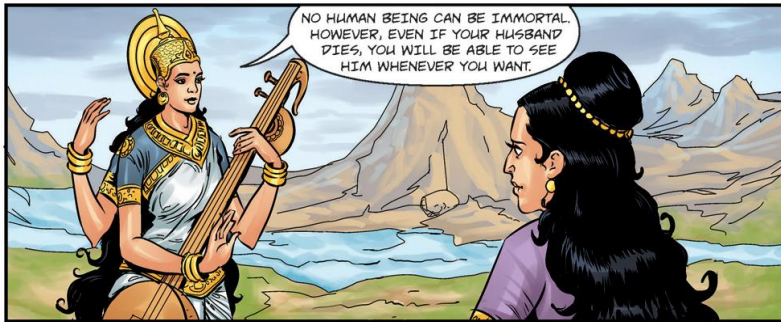








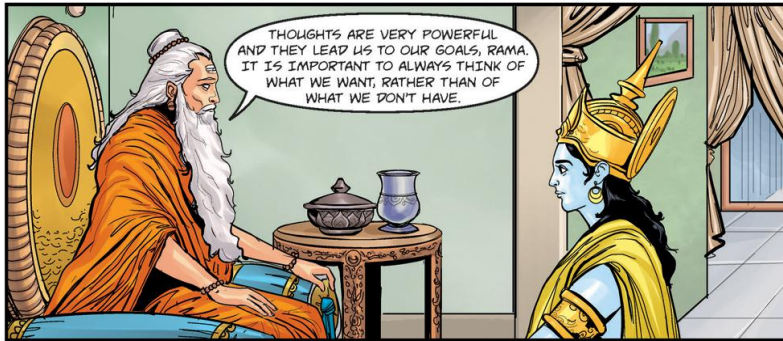




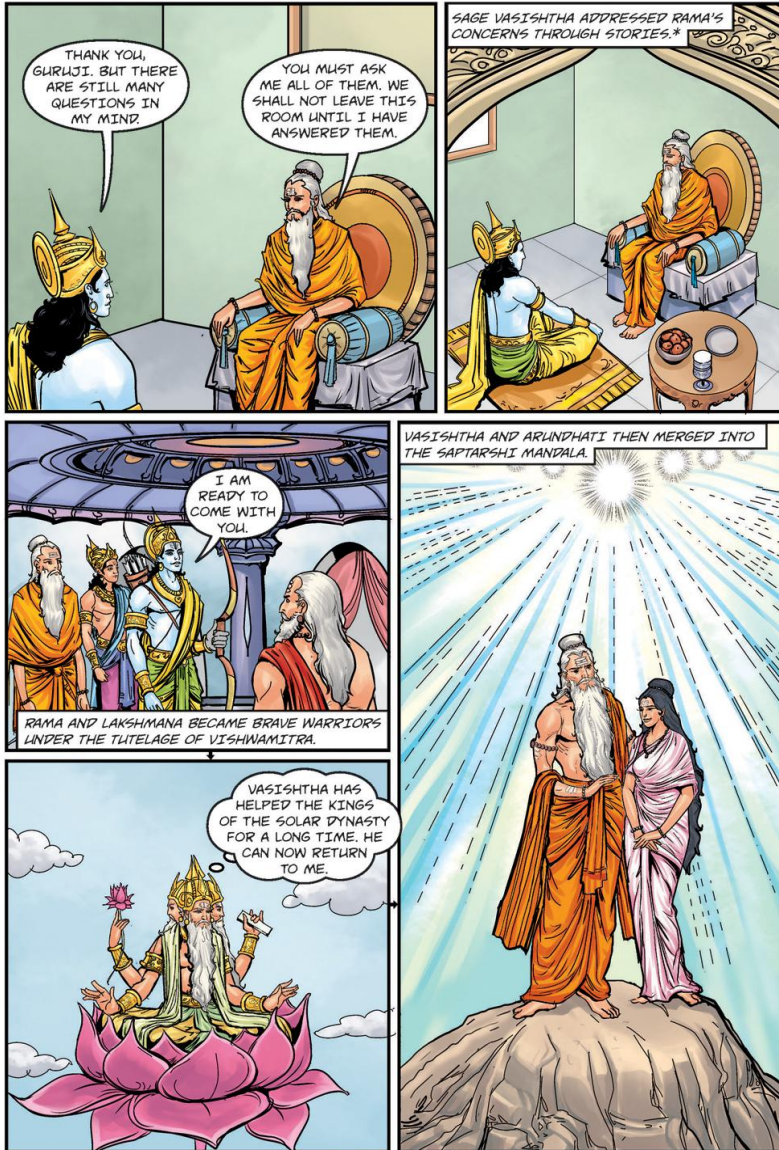


"LILA REMEMBERED THE TIME WHEN HER HUSBAND HAD GONE TO FIGHT A WAR..."



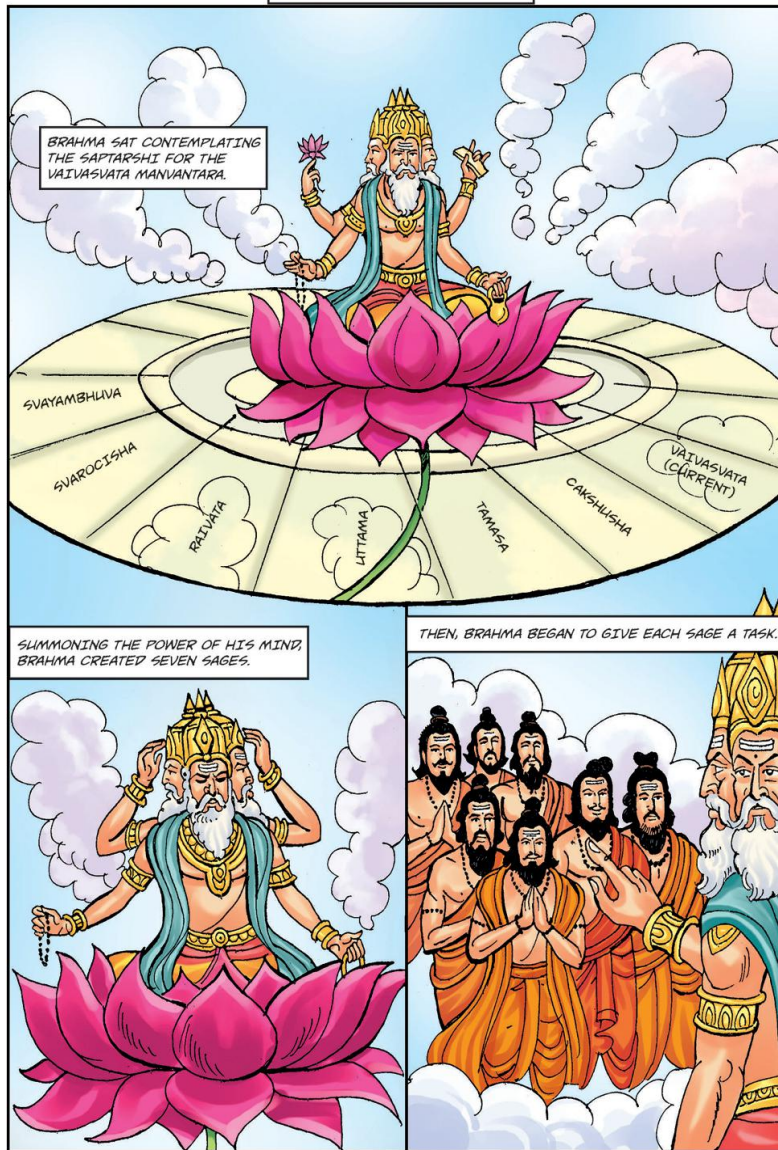


VASISHTHA AND ARUNDHATI

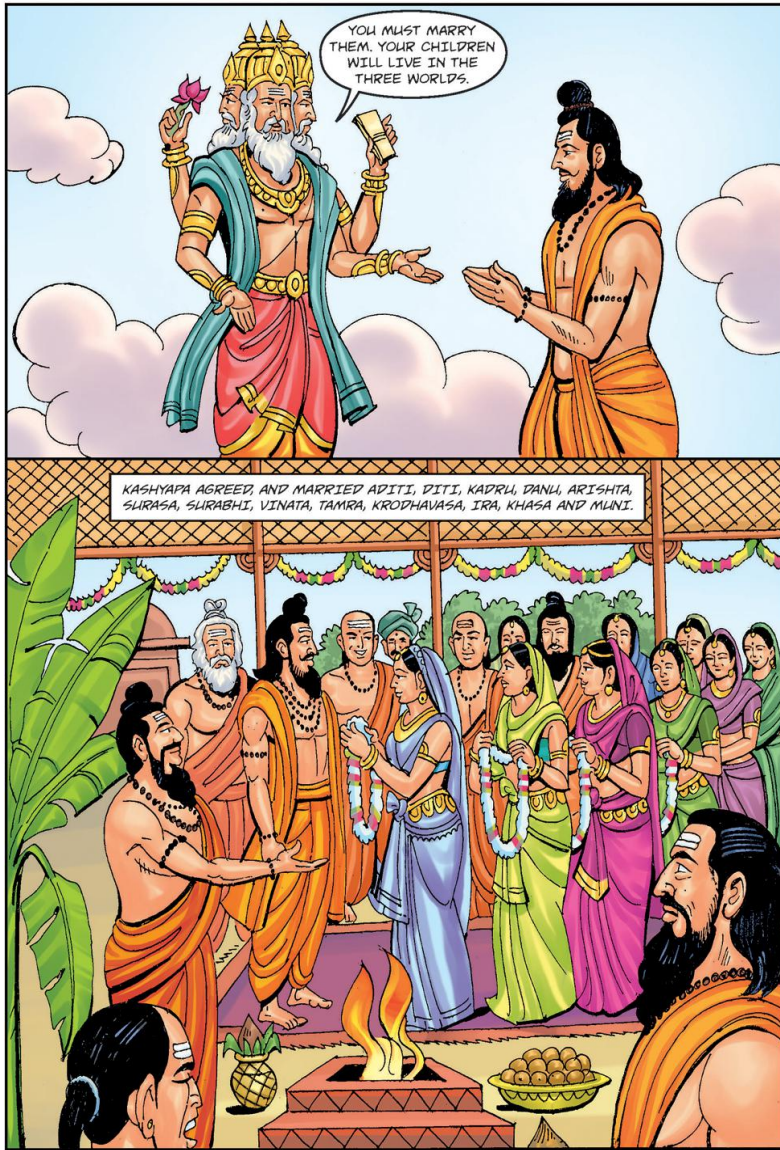


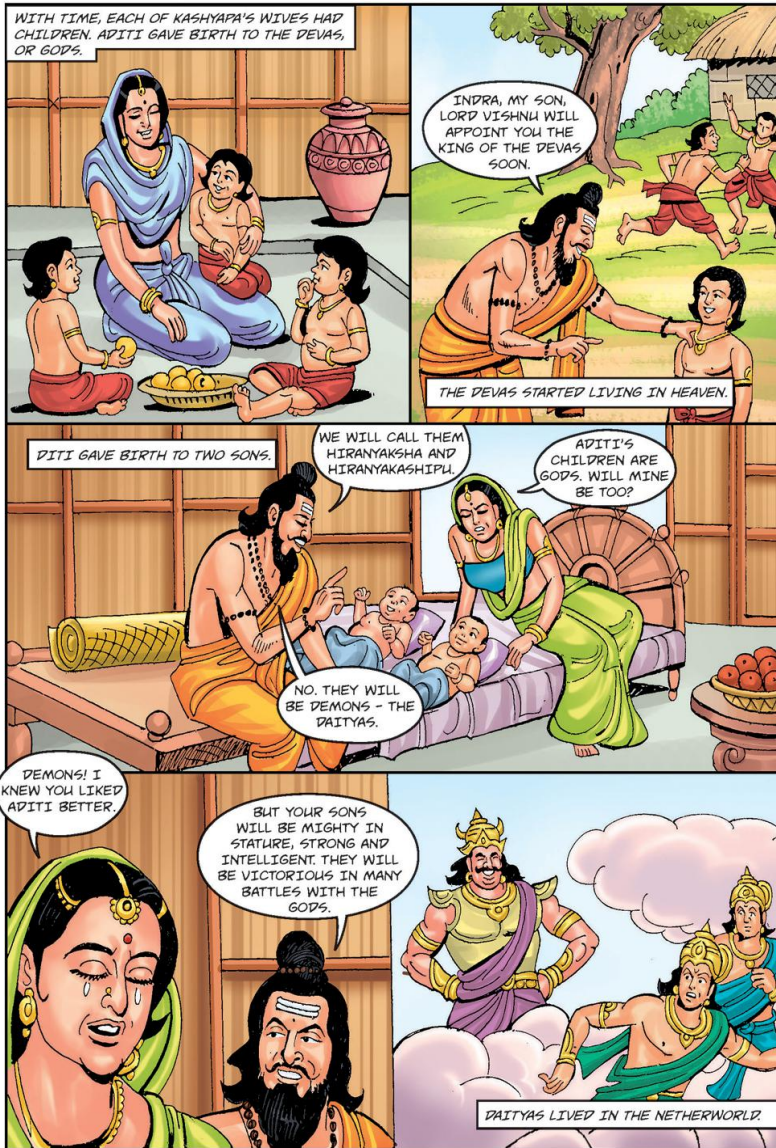
*THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN RAMA AND VASISHTHA IS DOCUMENTED IN A PHILOSOPHICAL TEXT CALLED 'YOGA VASISHTHA'. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY VALMIKI.

KASHYAPA



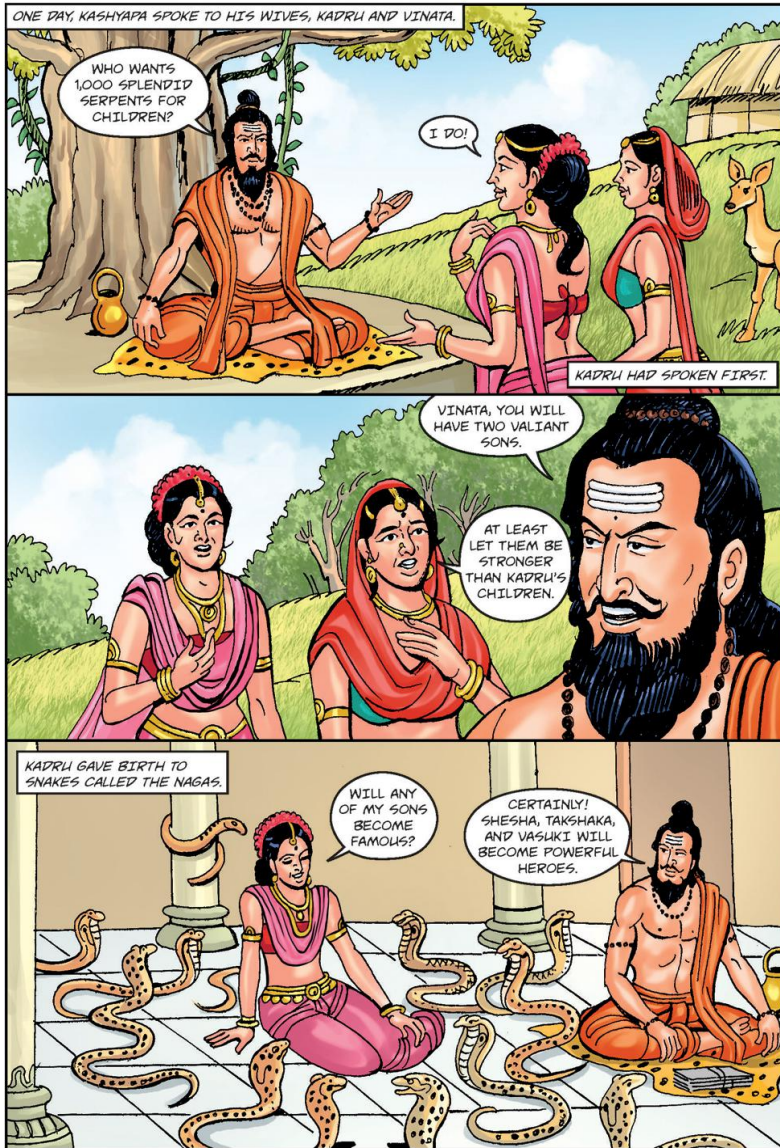






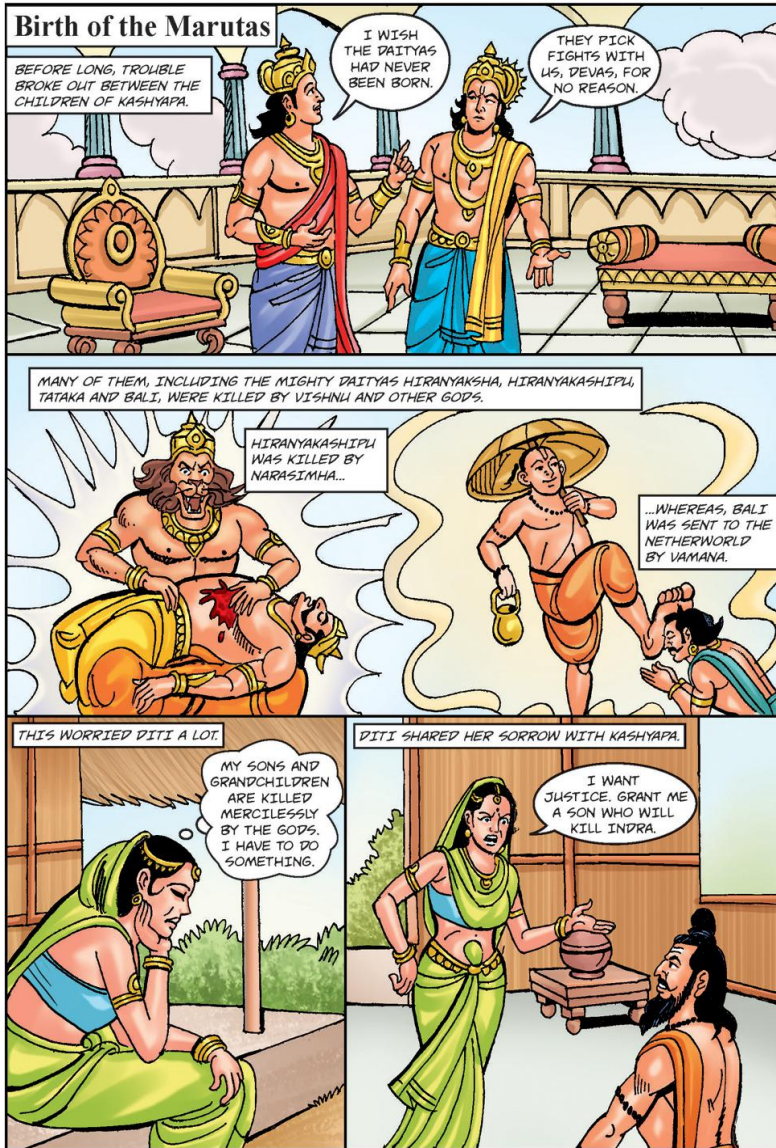


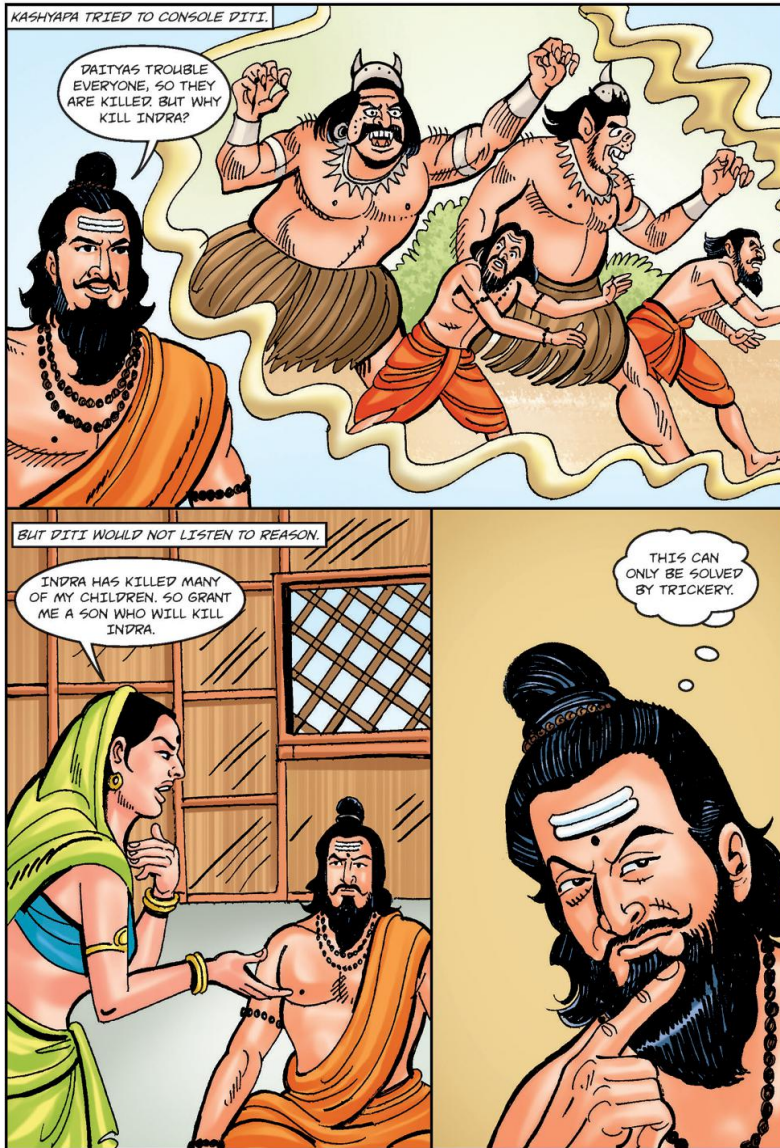


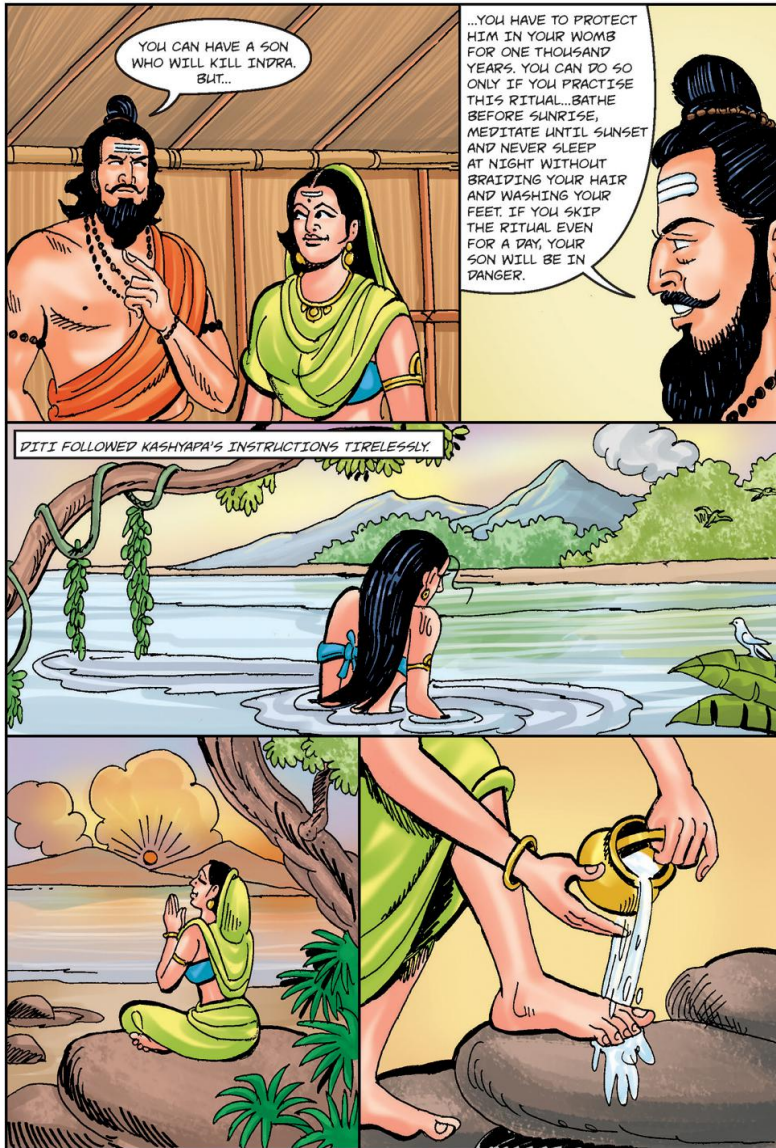


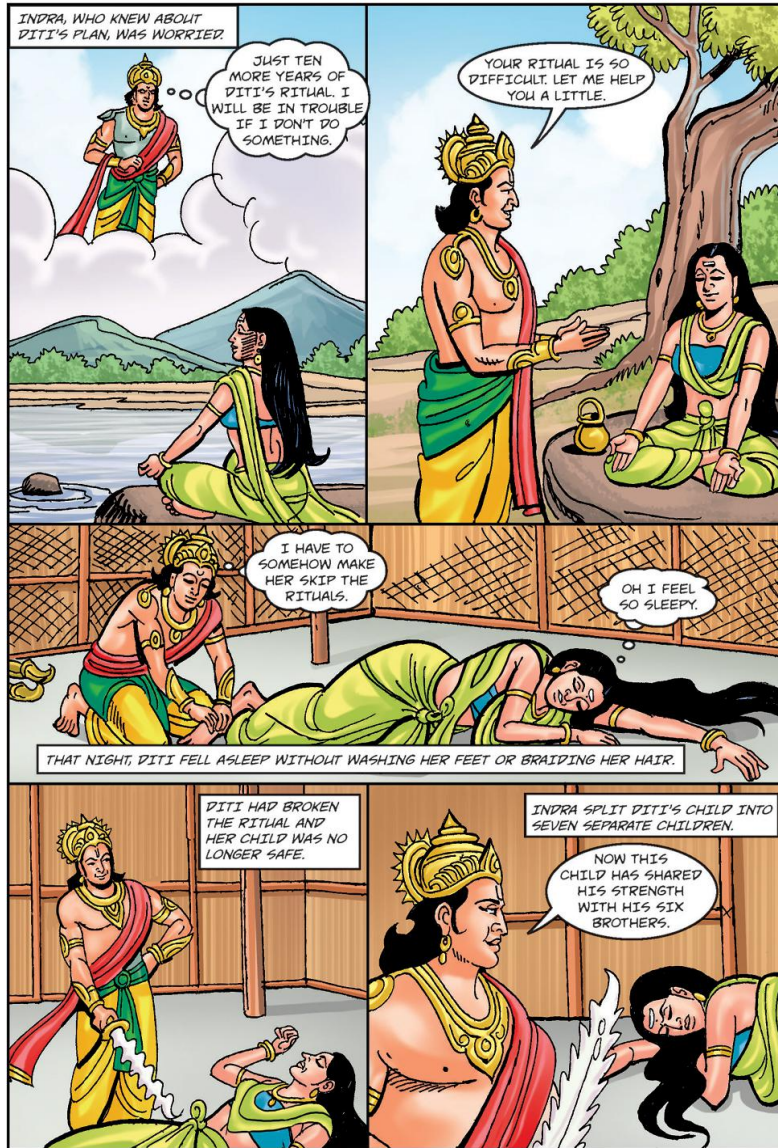


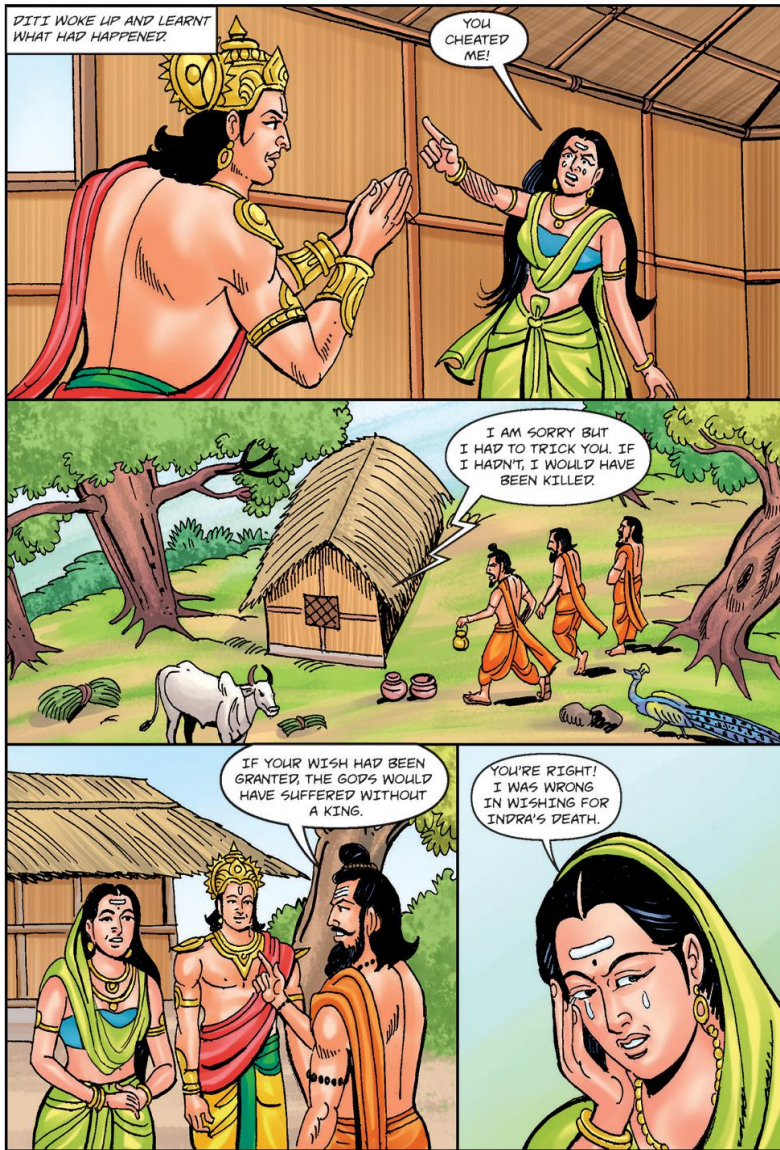






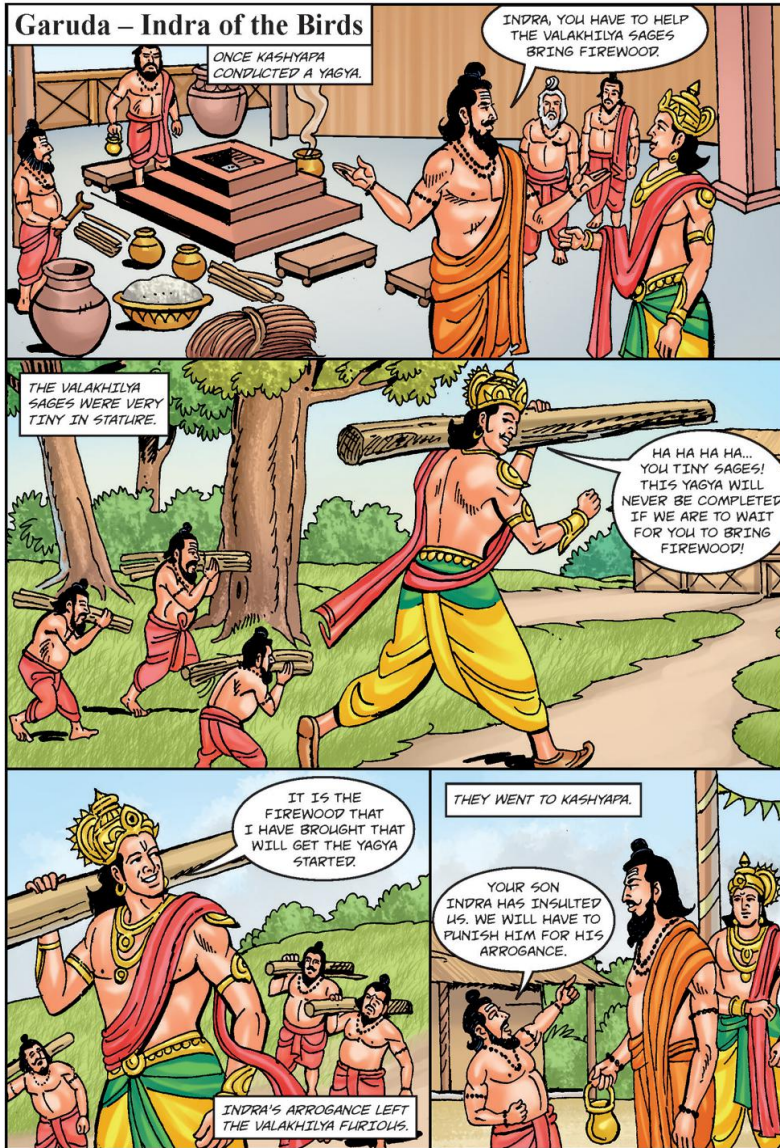






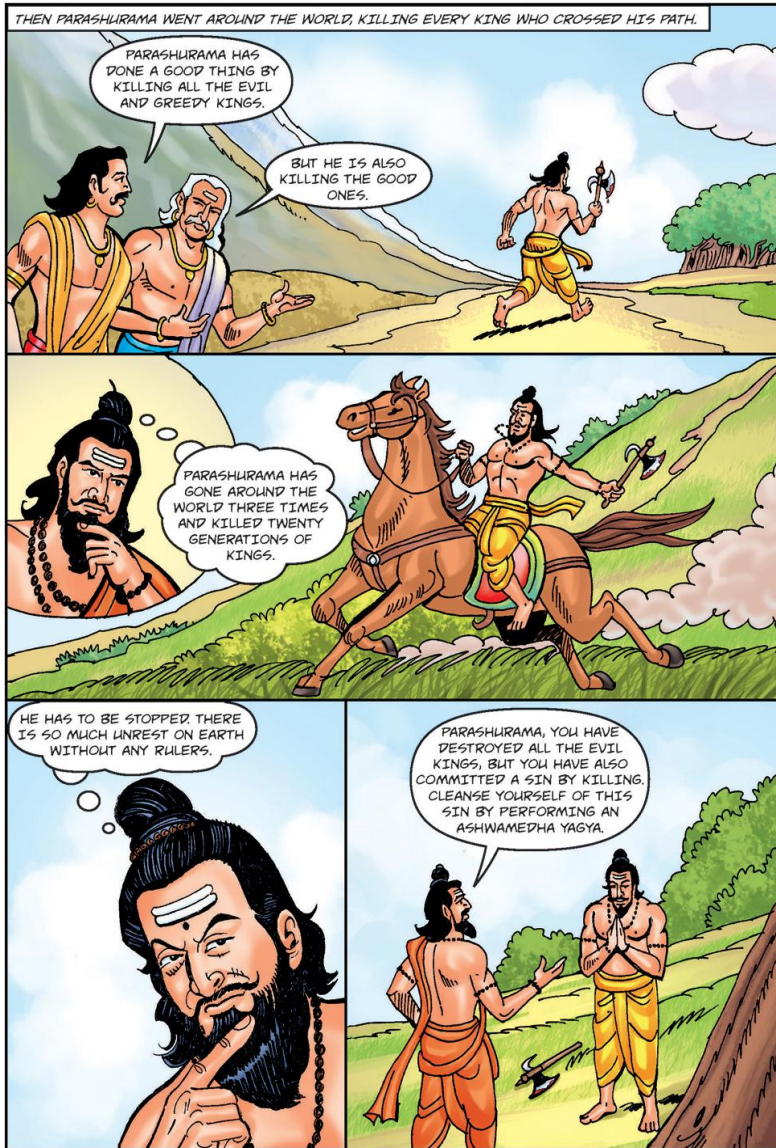


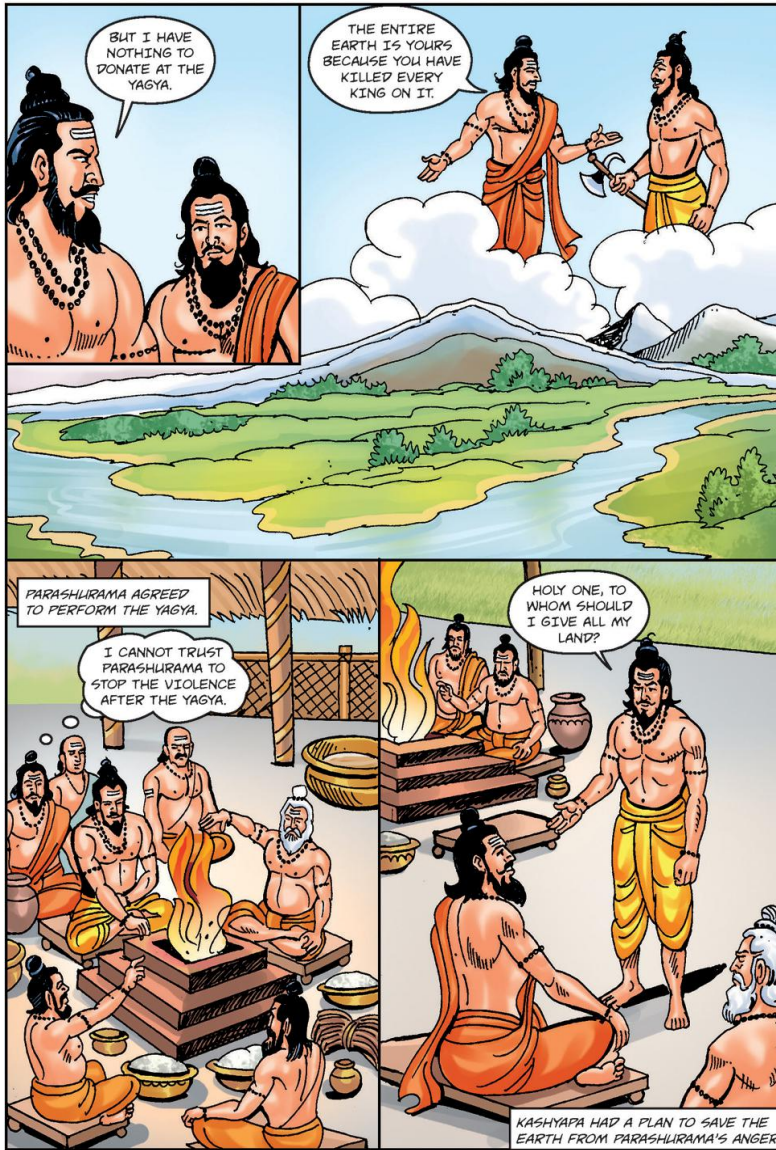
*DO NOT CRY.



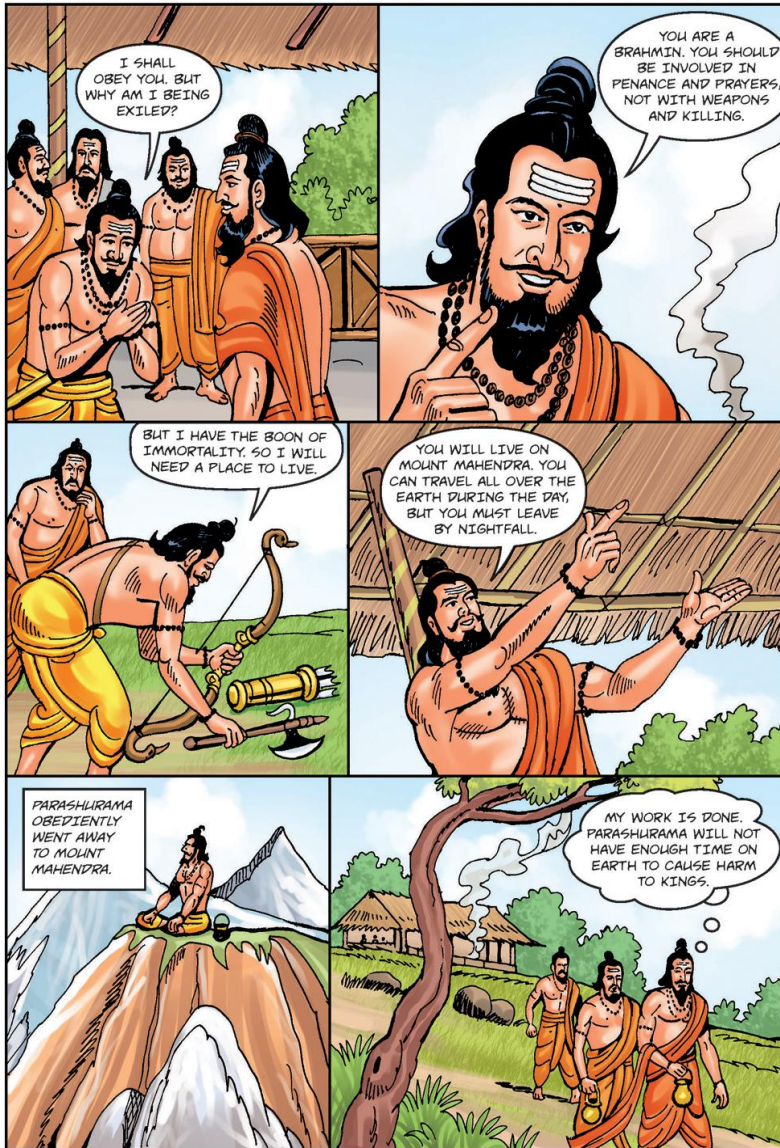




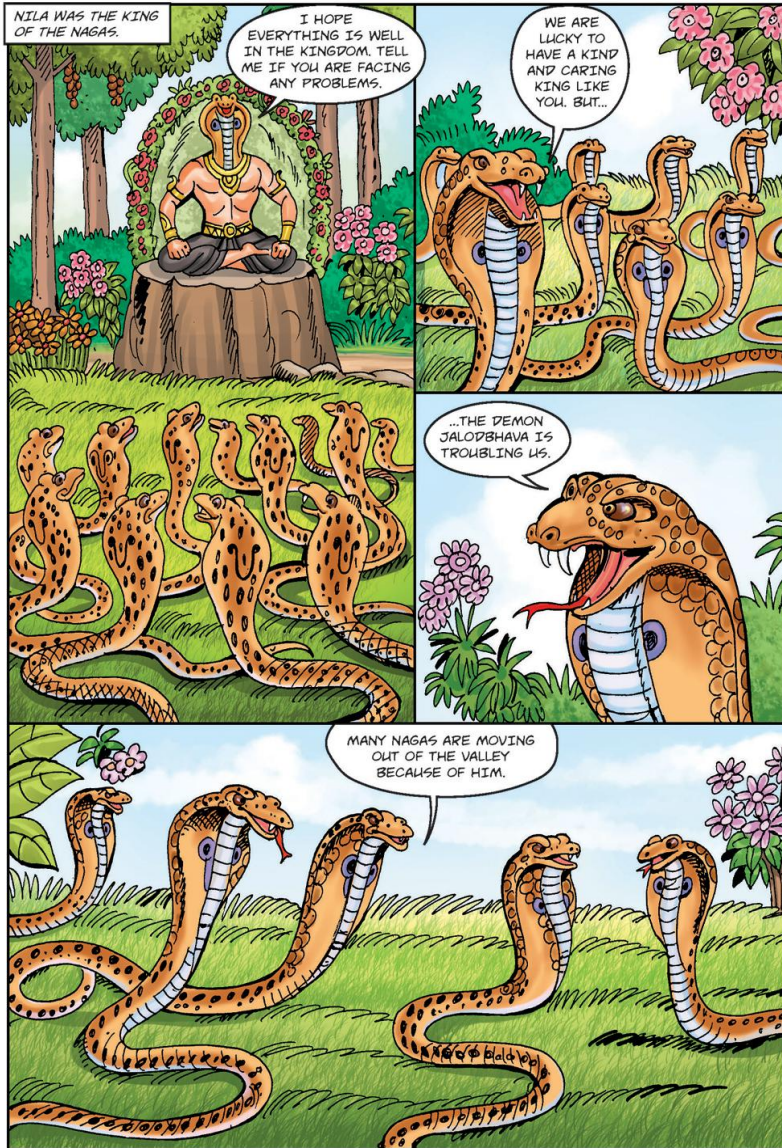


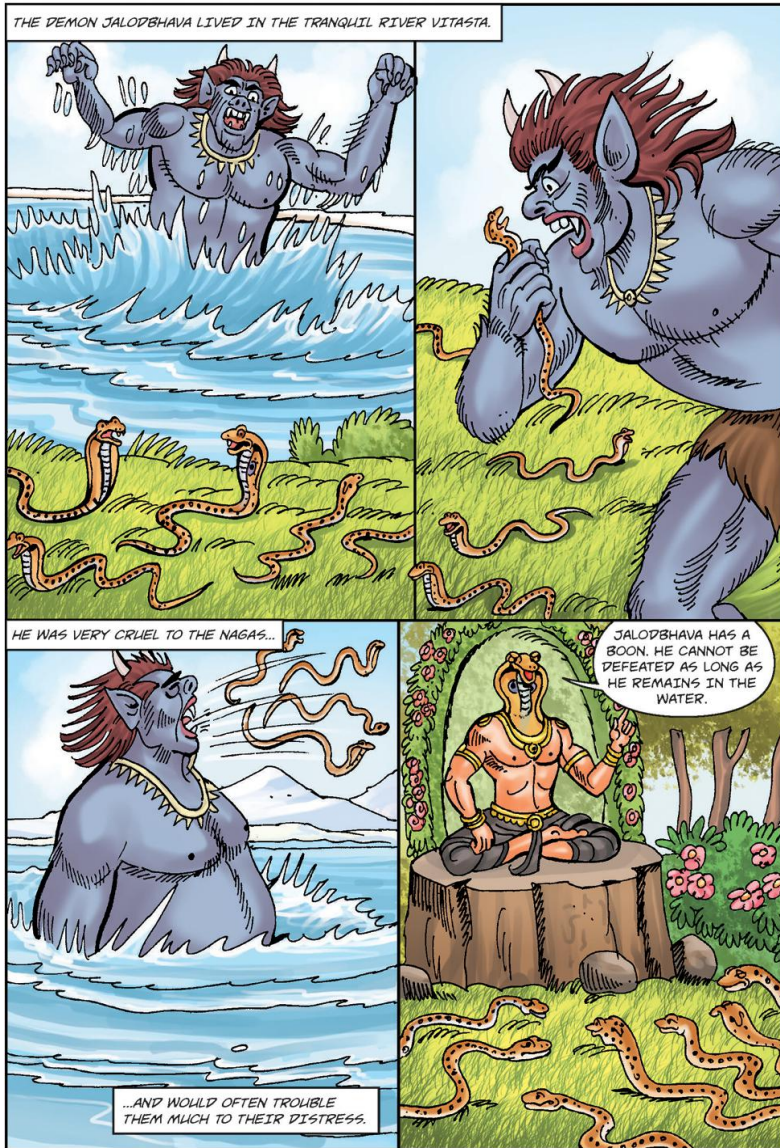




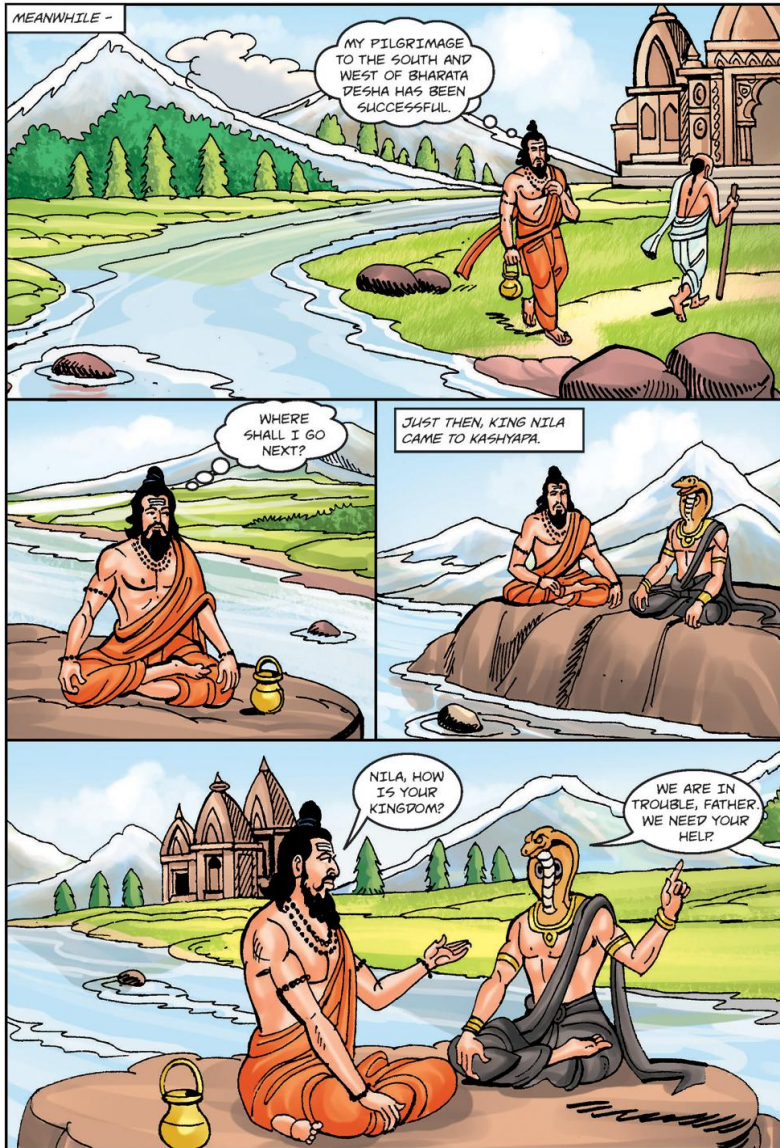


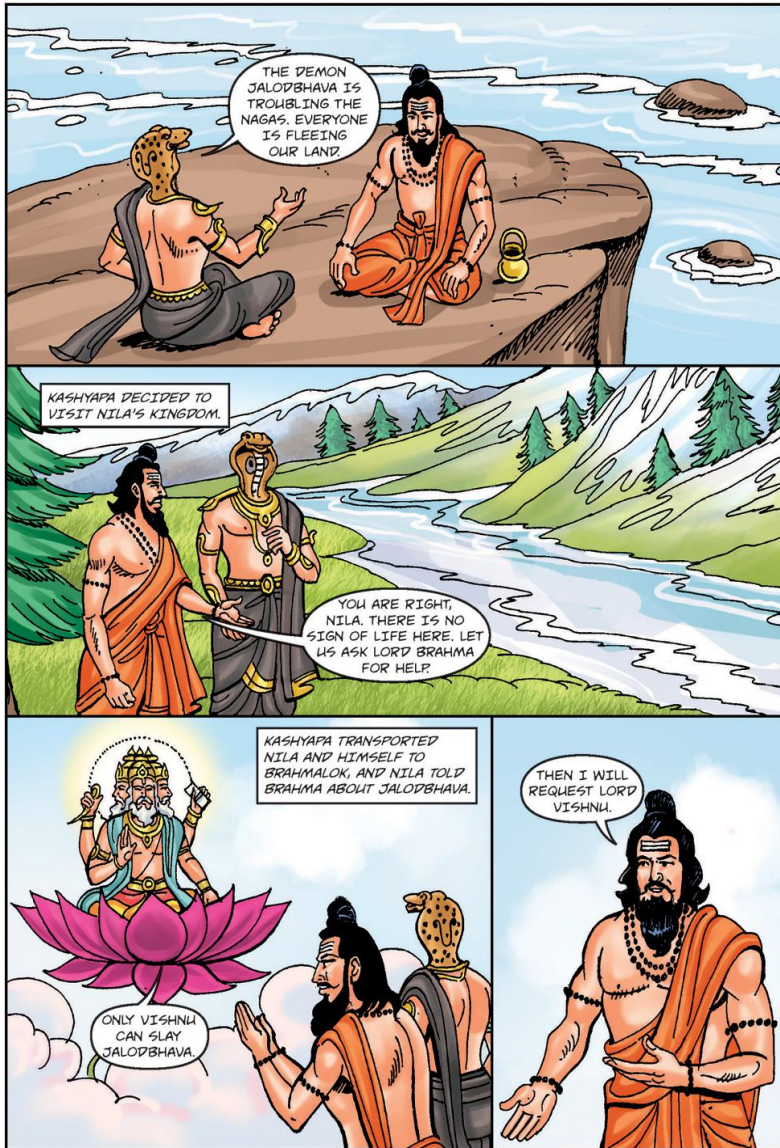


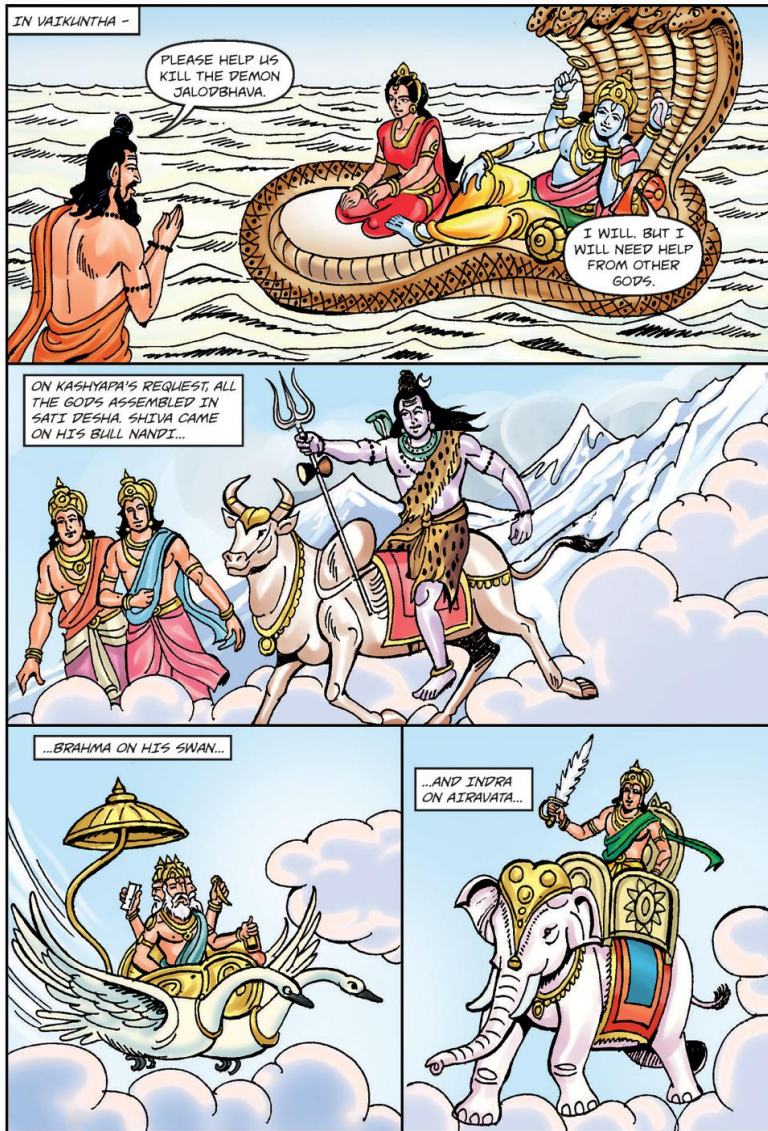








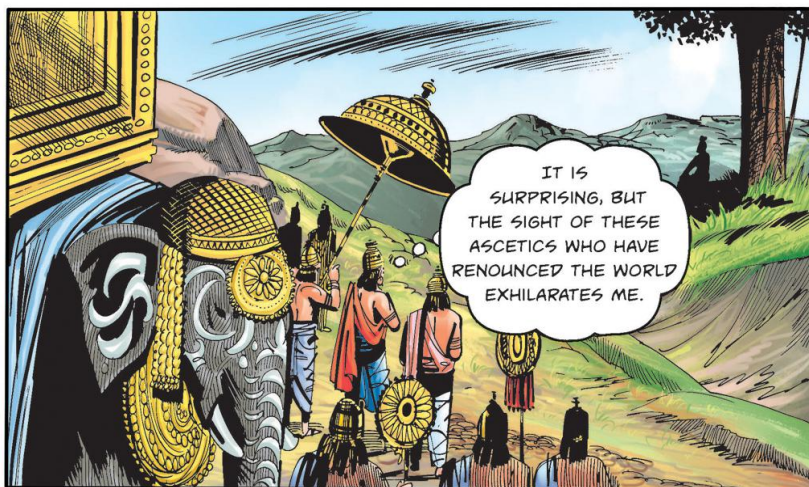
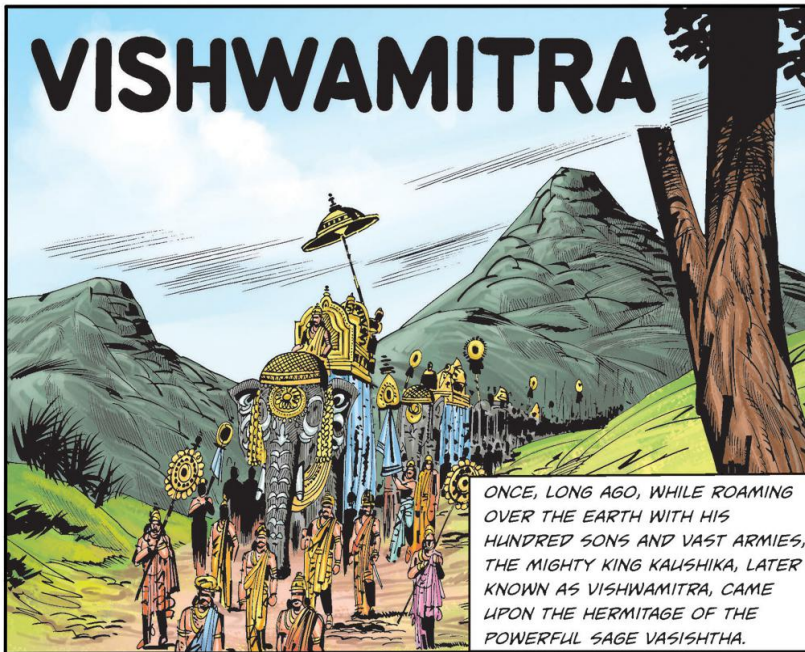


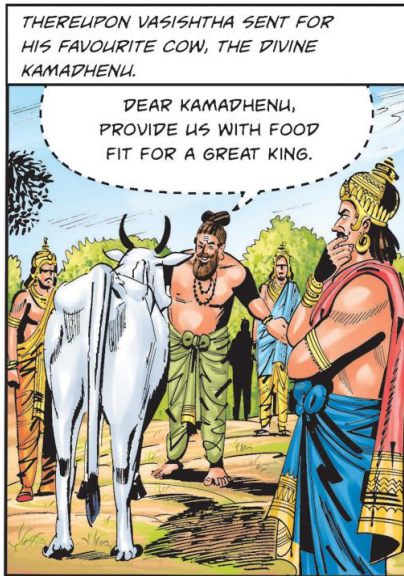
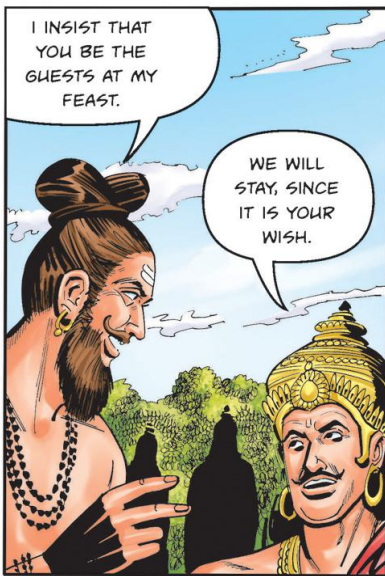
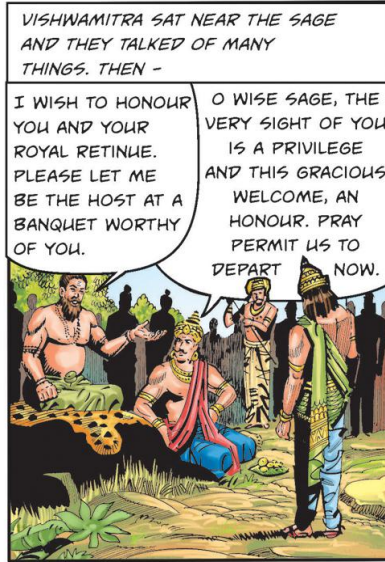




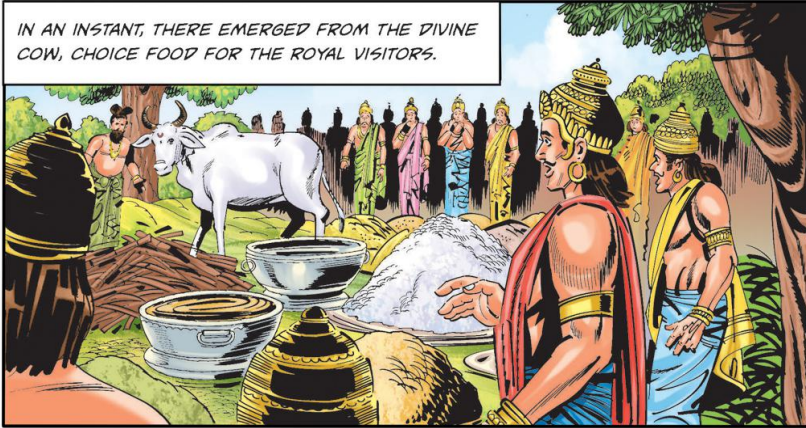








IN AN INSTANT, THERE EMERGED FROM THE DIVINE COW, CHOICE FOOD FOR THE ROYAL VISITORS.



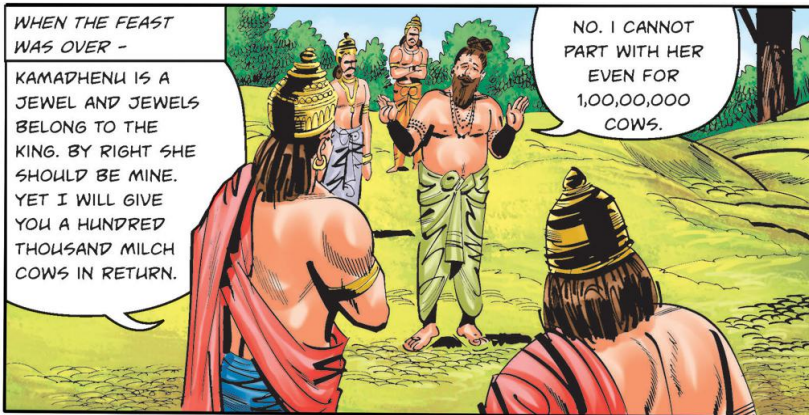
VISHWAMITRA AND HIS MEN ATE TO THEIR HEARTS' CONTENT.



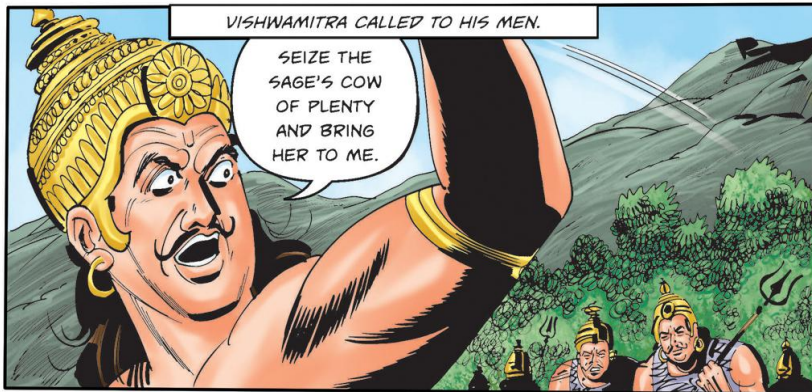
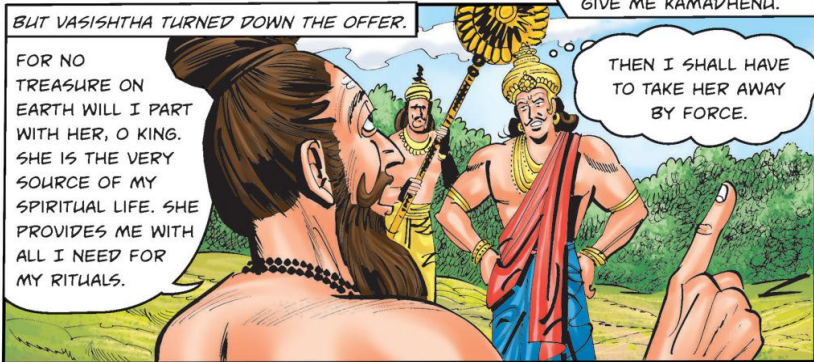
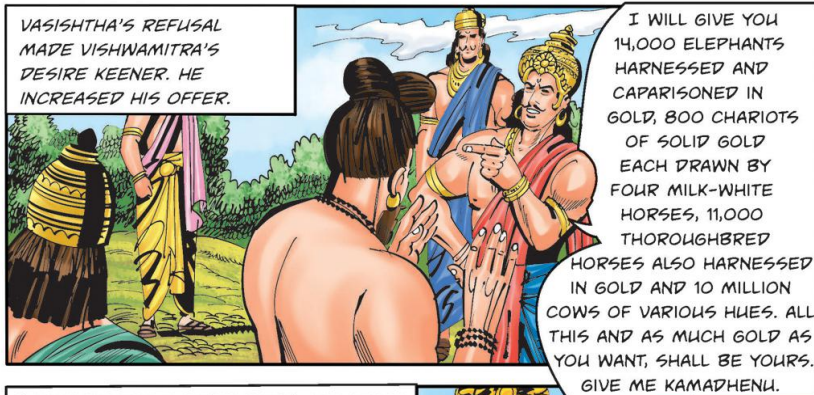
I HAVE NEVER TASTED SUCH DELICACIES BEFORE. KAMADHENU SHOULD BELONG TO ME!

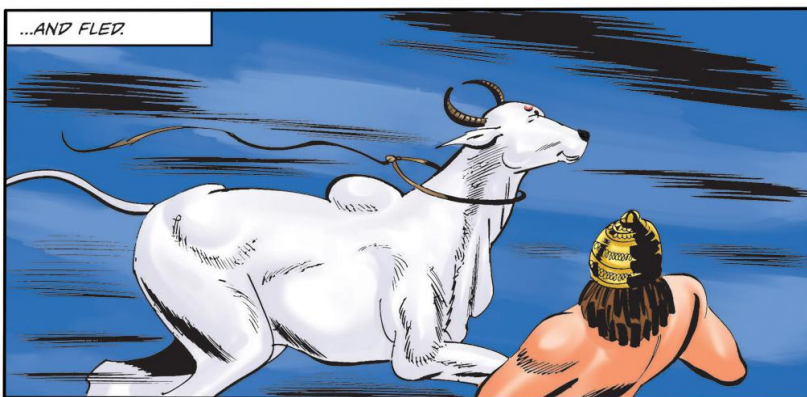
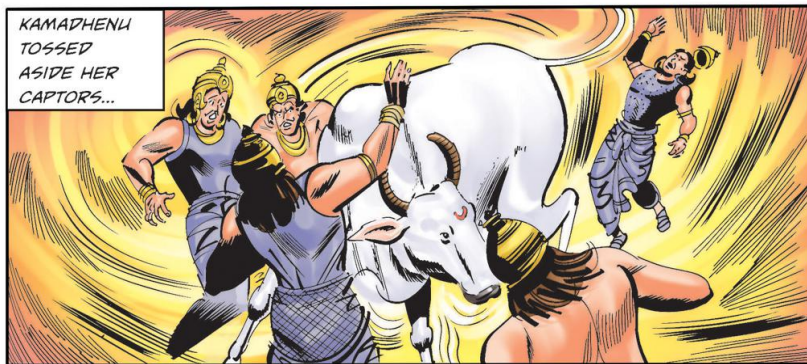
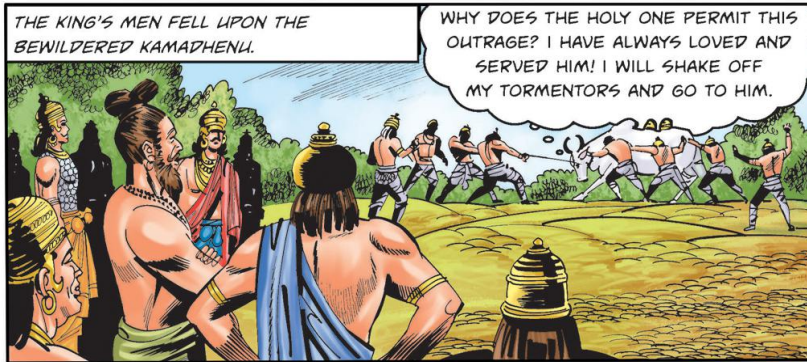
WHEN THE FEAST WAS OVER -

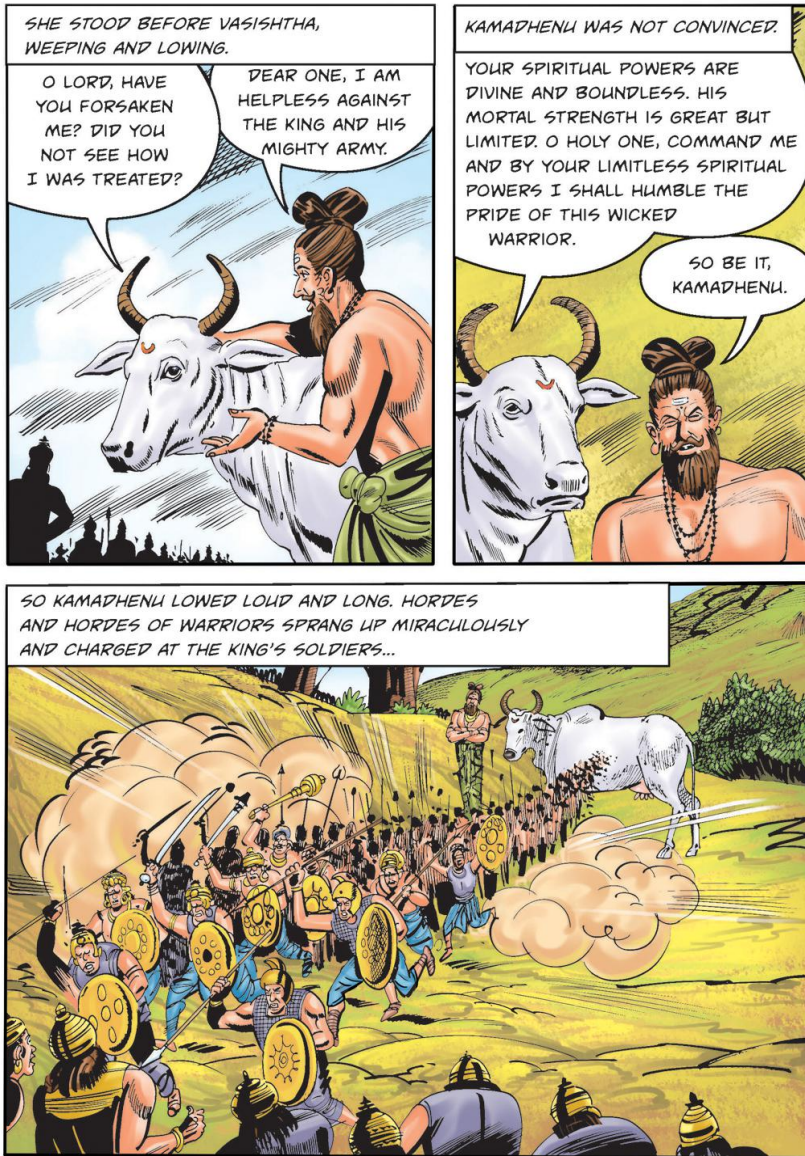
KAMADHENU IS A JEWEL AND JEWELS BELONG TO THE KING. BY RIGHT SHE SHOULD BE MINE. YET I WILL GIVE YOU A HUNDRED THOUSAND MILCH COWS IN RETURN.

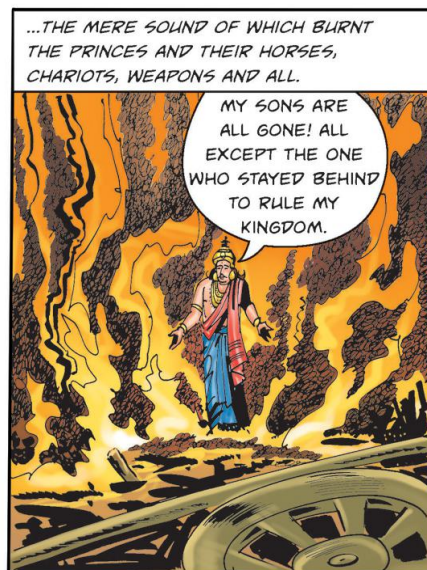
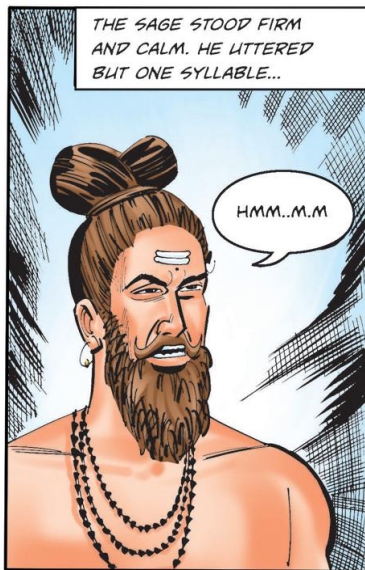


NO. I CANNOT PART WITH HER EVEN FOR 1,00,00,000 COWS.







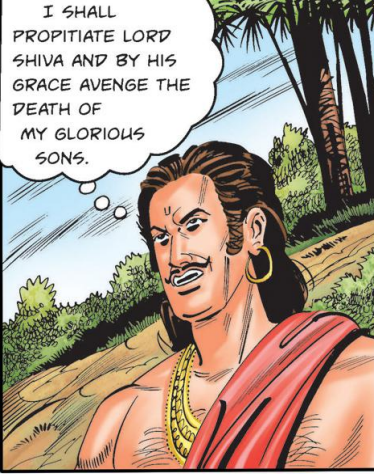


VISHWAMITRA RETURNED TO HIS KINGDOM FULL OF GRIEF AND SHAME. THERE -



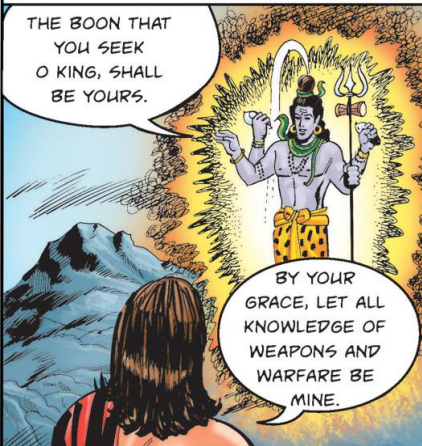
MY SON, THE KINGDOM IS YOURS. RULE VIRTUOUSLY OVER IT. I PLAN TO RETIRE TO THE FORESTS FOR A WHILE.

HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE HIMALAYAS AND BEGAN PRACTISING SEVERE AUSTERITIES.



I SHALL PROPITIATE LORD SHIVA AND BY HIS GRACE AVENGE THE DEATH OF MY GLORIOUS SONS.

AT LAST SHIVA WAS PLEASED. HE STOOD BEFORE VISHWAMITRA.



THE BOON THAT YOU SEEK O KING, SHALL BE YOURS.

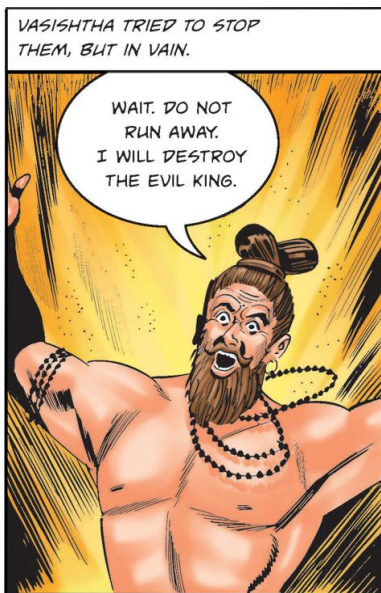
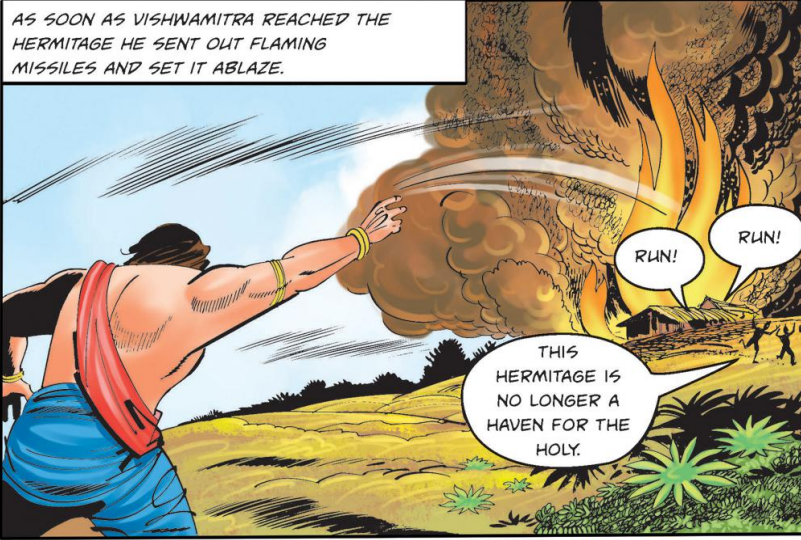
BY YOUR GRACE, LET ALL KNOWLEDGE OF WEAPONS AND WARFARE BE MINE.

SHIVA GRANTED THE BOON AND WENT BACK TO HIS ABODE.

A TRIUMPHANT VISHWAMITRA NOW TURNED HIS FOOTSTEPS TOWARDS VASISHTHA'S HERMITAGE.



MERCY, O KING. MERCY.

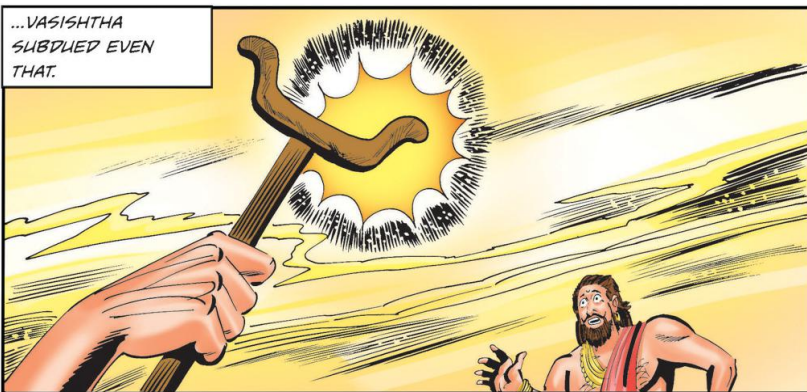
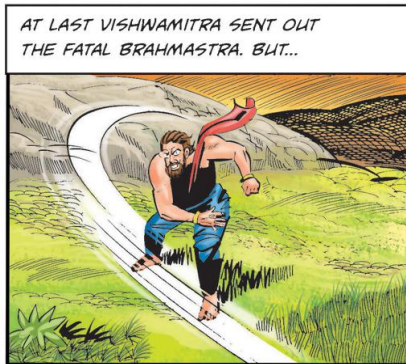
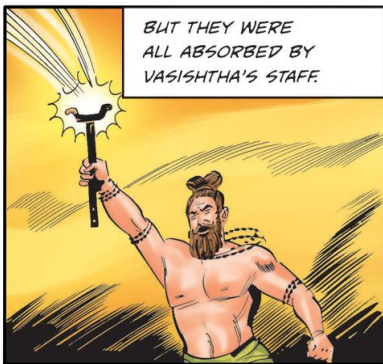
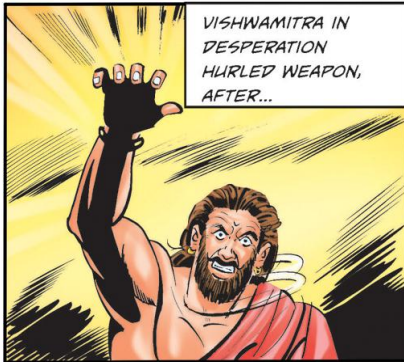


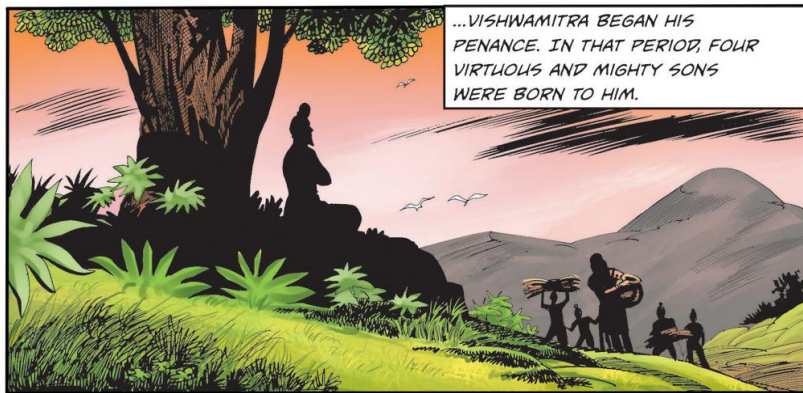
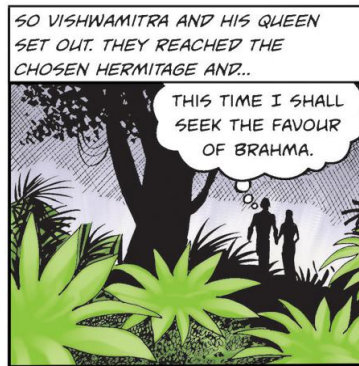
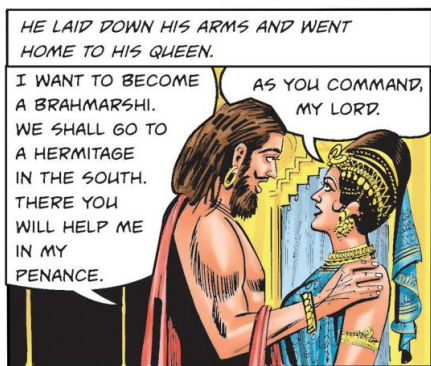
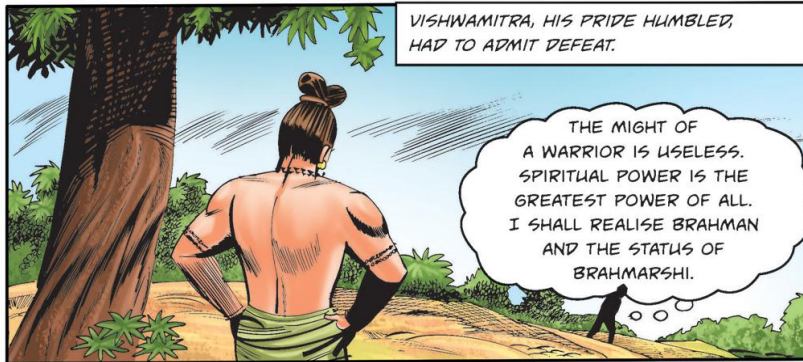
SNATCHING HIS STAFF, HE ADVANCED TOWARDS VISHWAMITRA.



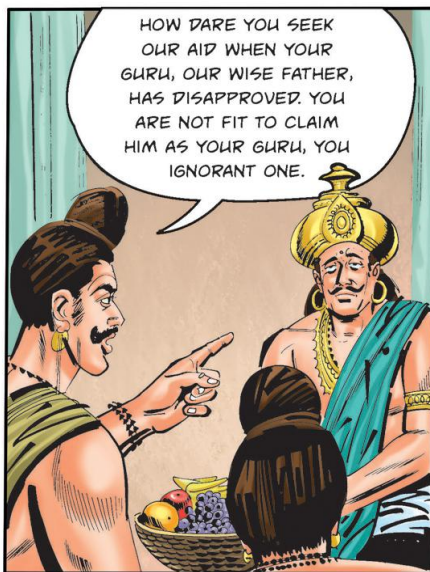
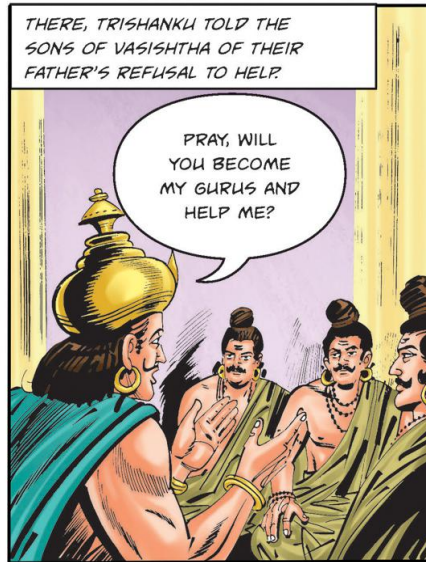
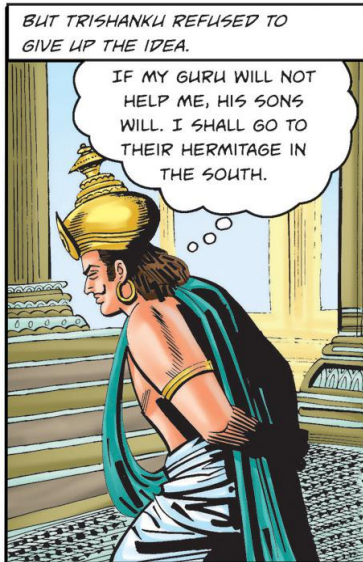
VISHWAMITRA HURLED THE WEAPON.
BUT -









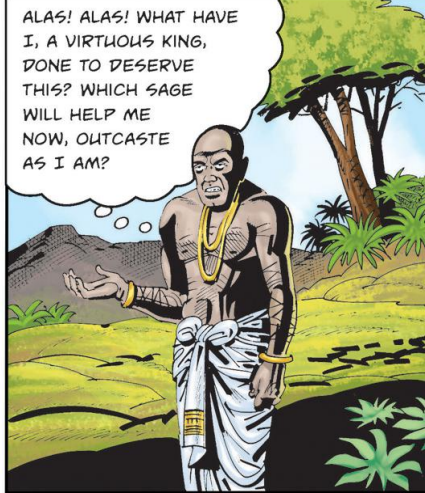


THE SONS OF VASISHTHA WERE FURIOUS WITH THE ADAMANT KING.



O EVIL KING, MAY YOU BECOME A CHANDALA*.

TO HIS DISMAY TRISHANKU FOUND HIS BODY TRANSFORMED.



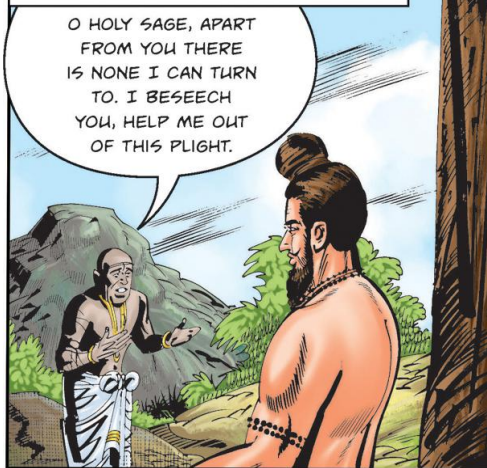
ALAS! ALAS! WHAT HAVE I, A VIRTUOUS KING, DONE TO DESERVE THIS? WHICH SAGE WILL HELP ME NOW, OUTCASTE AS I AM?

THEN SUDDENLY, HE REMEMBERED VISHWAMITRA.



I WILL GO TO THE RAJARSHI. HE WILL HELP ME.

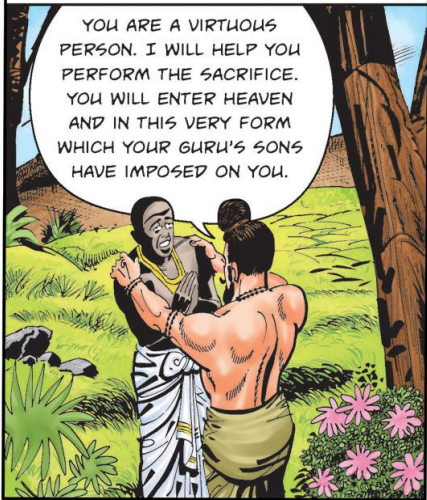
AS HE EXPECTED, VISHWAMITRA RECEIVED HIM COMPASSIONATELY AND LISTENED TO HIS TALE OF WOE.



O HOLY SAGE, APART FROM YOU THERE IS NONE I CAN TURN TO. I BESEECH YOU, HELP ME OUT OF THIS PLIGHT.

*A CLASS OF PEOPLE WHO USED TO DISPOSE DEAD BODIES

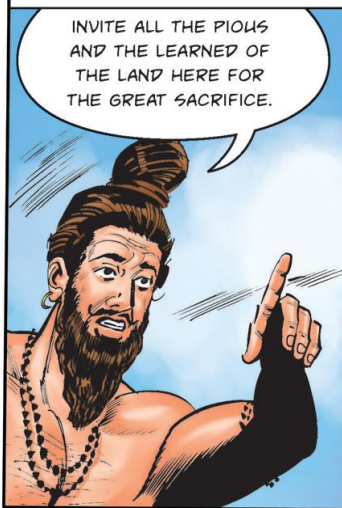
VISHWAMITRA CONSOLED AND COMFORTED THE MISERABLE KING.



VISHWAMITRA SUMMONED HIS SONS TO HIM.

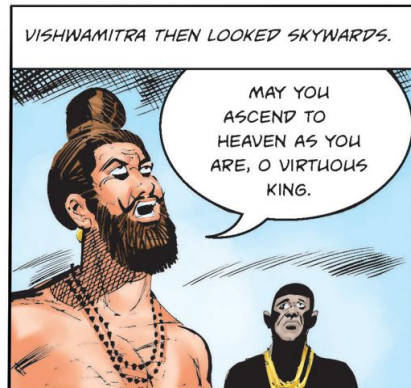
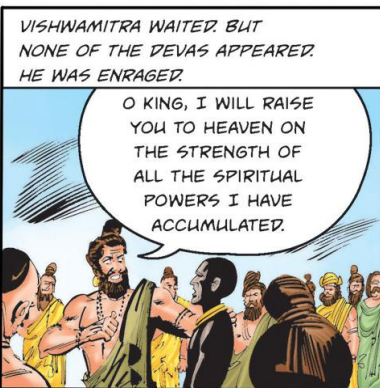
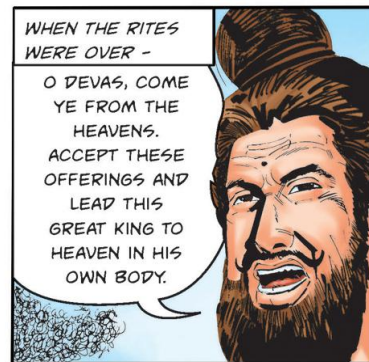
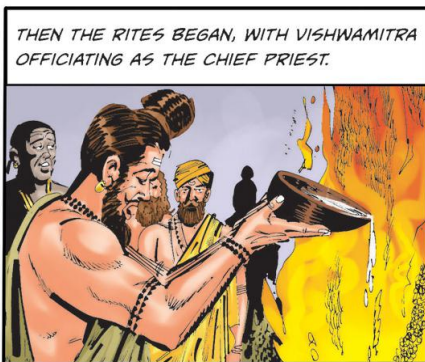
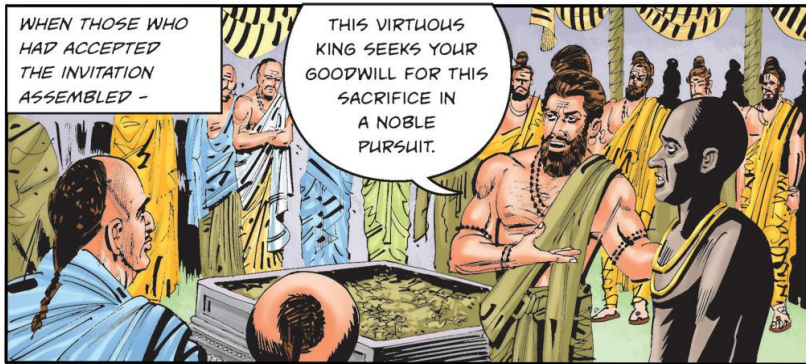


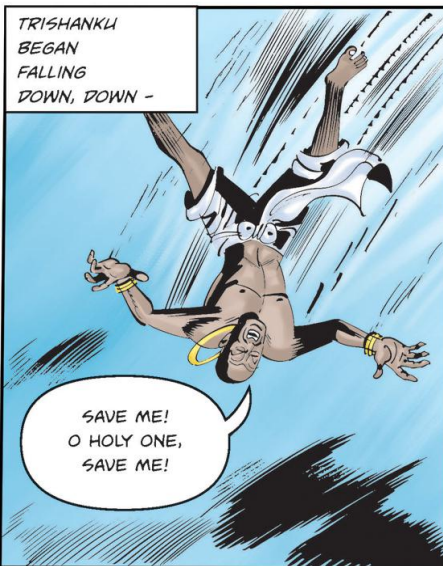
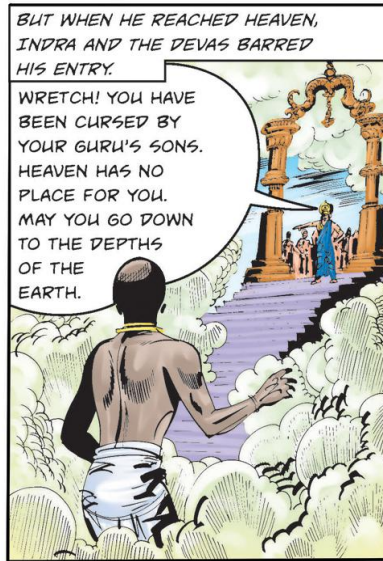
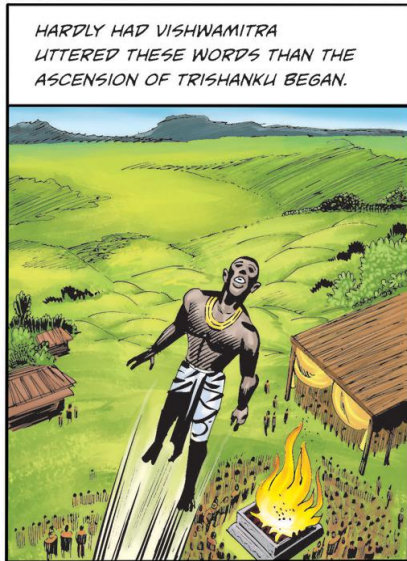
NEXT VISHWAMITRA CALLED HIS DISCIPLES TO HIM.

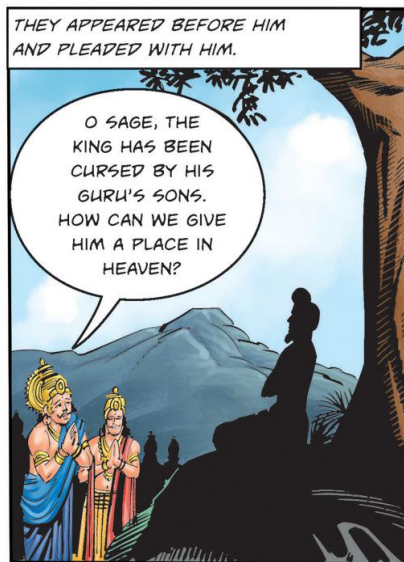
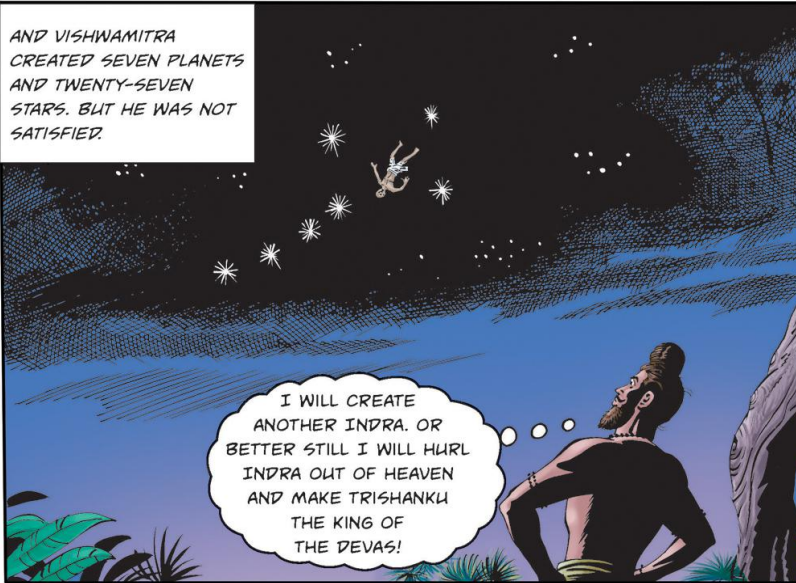


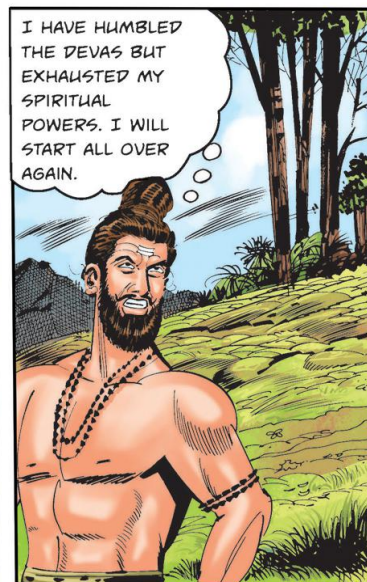
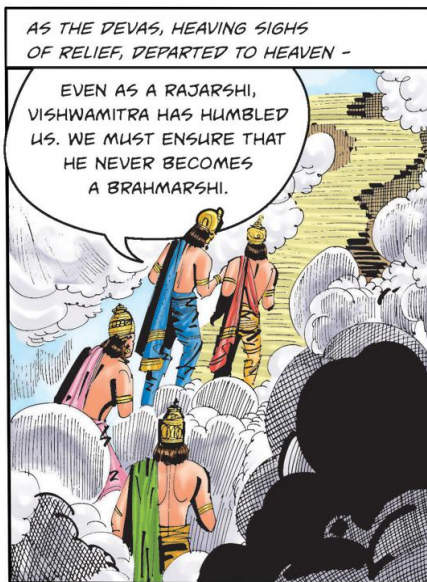
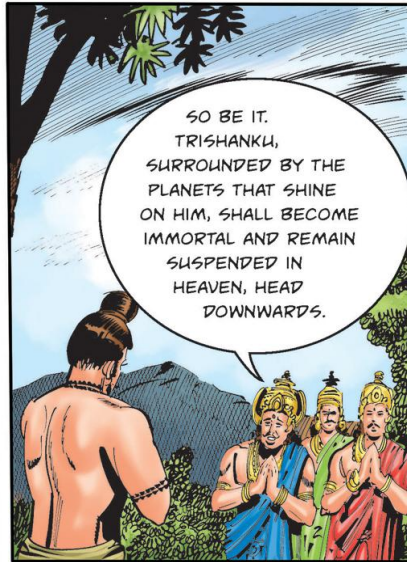
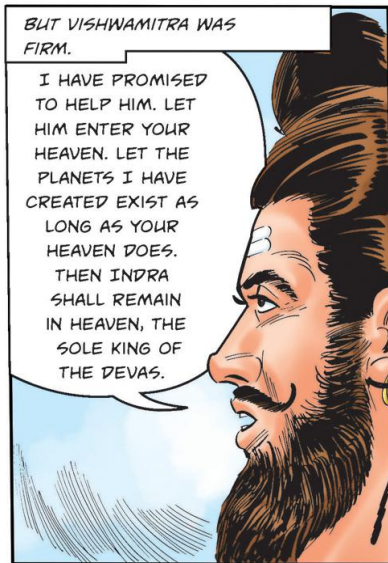
THE DISCIPLES RETURNED AFTER A FEW DAYS.

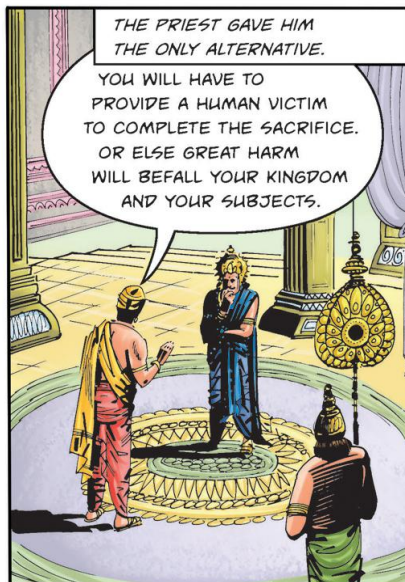
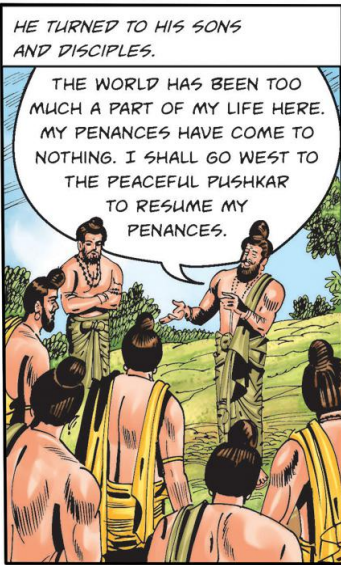




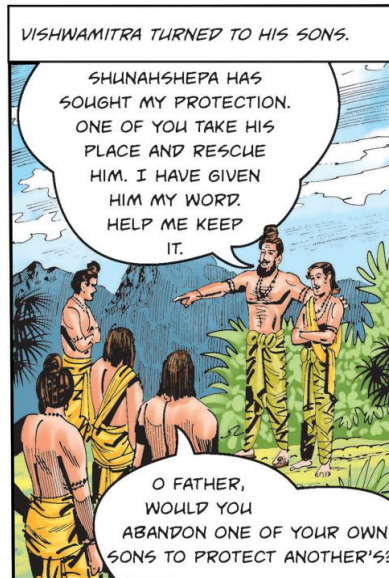
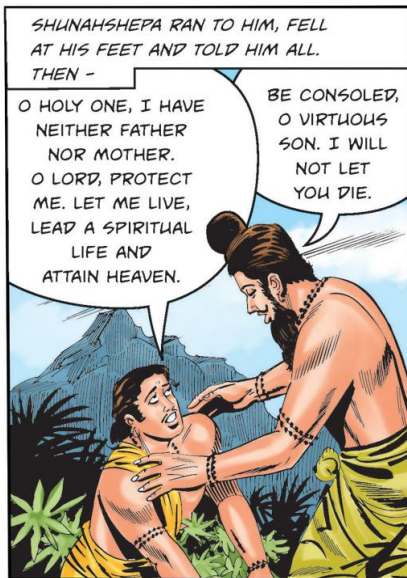
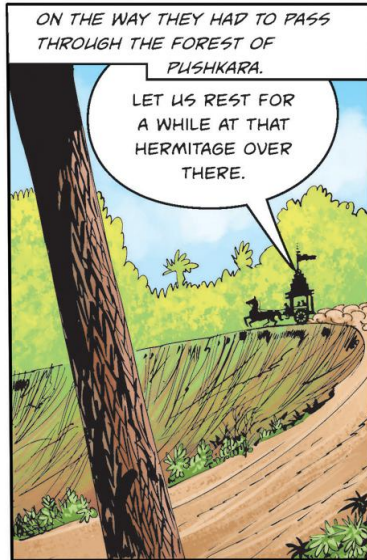


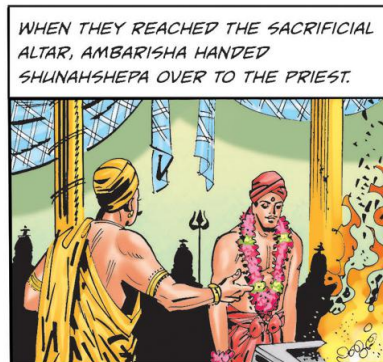
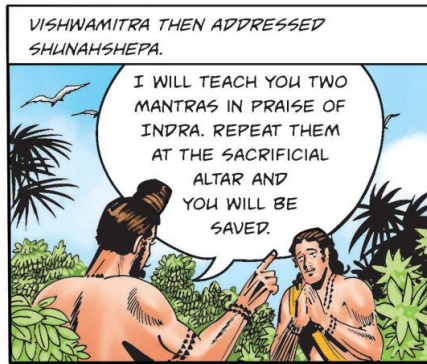
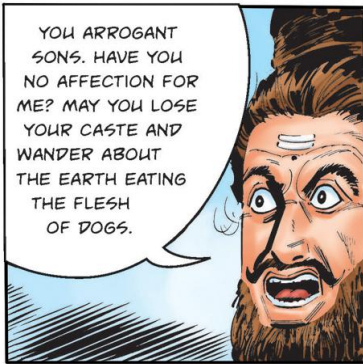






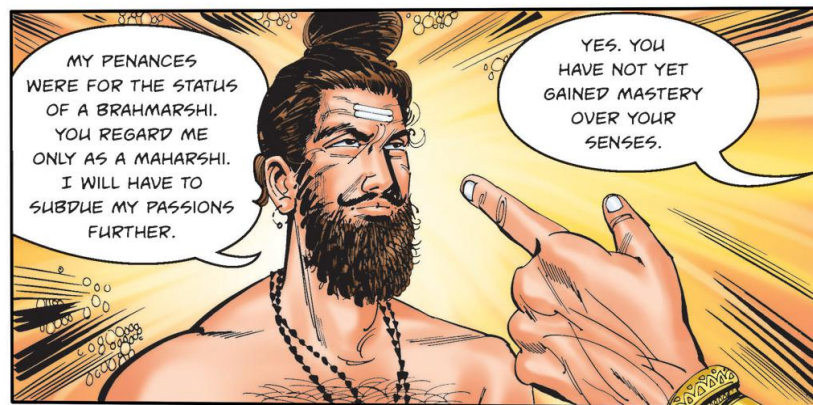
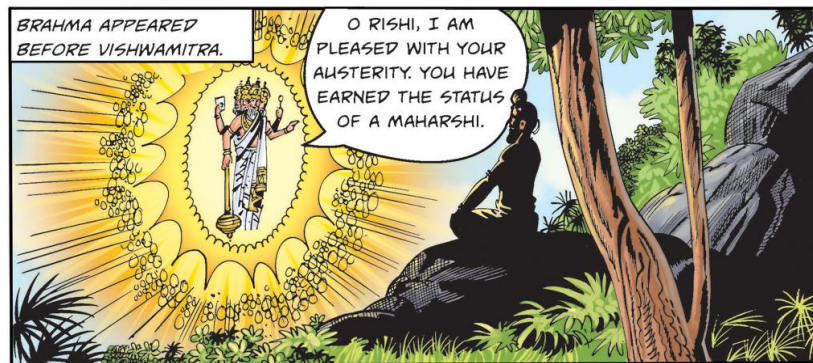
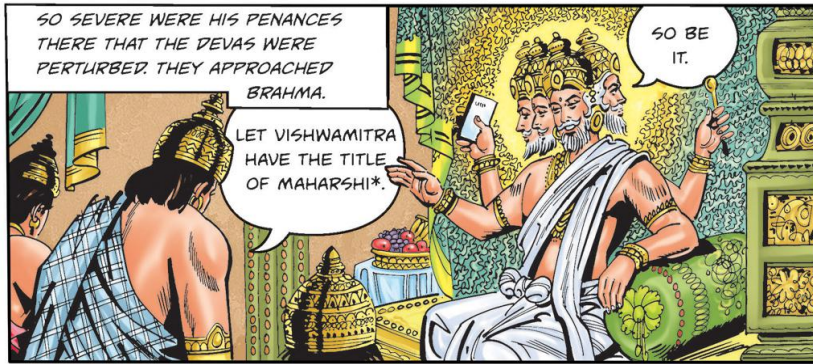






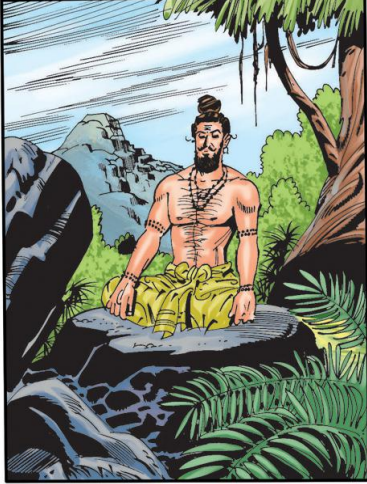


VISHWAMITRA



*A RISHI WHO HAS MASTERED KNOWLEDGE, HAS A VISION THAT INCLUDES THE WHOLE UNIVERSE AND YET IS PRECISE IN ACTION AND THOUGHT.

WHEN BRAHMA DEPARTED,
VISHWAMITRA INTENSIFIED HIS
AUSTERITIES.



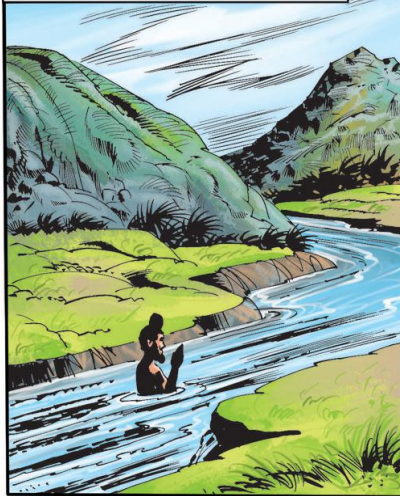
IN SUMMER HE STOOD ON ONE FOOT
IN THE MIDST OF FIVE BLAZING
FIRES, LIVING ONLY ON AIR.

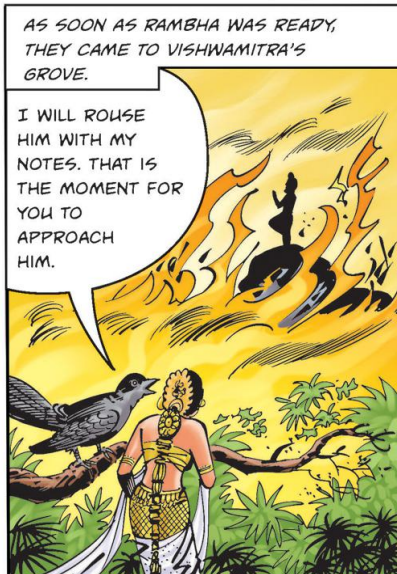
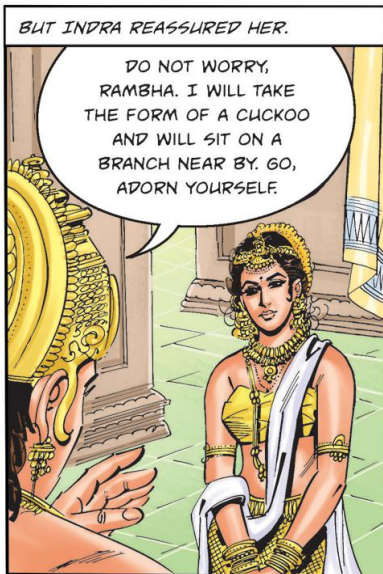
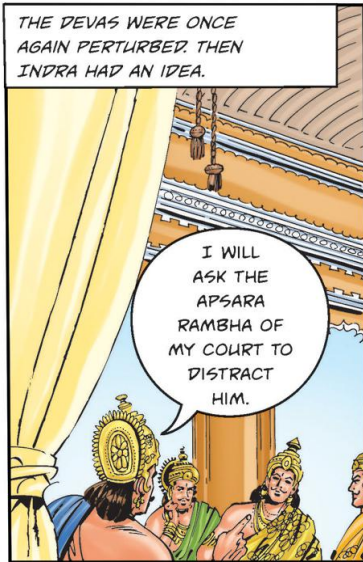


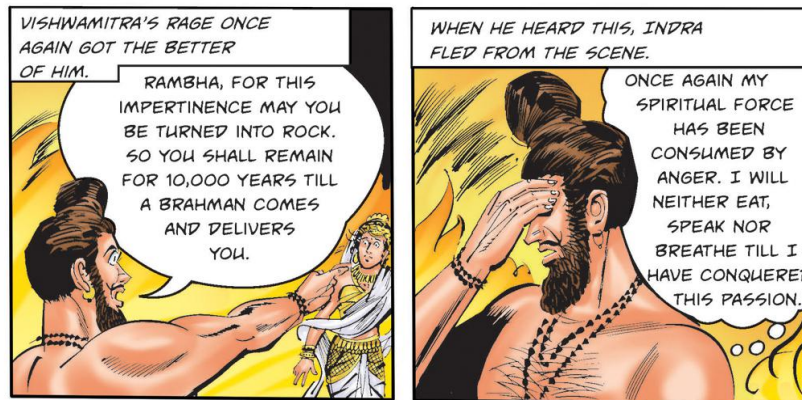
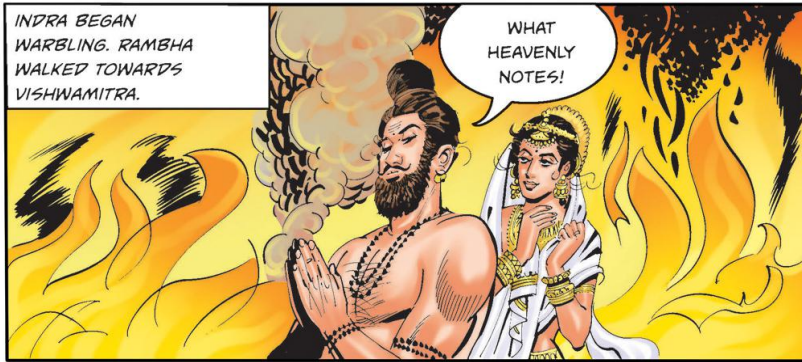
THROUGH THE RAINY SEASON
HE CONTINUED STANDING.

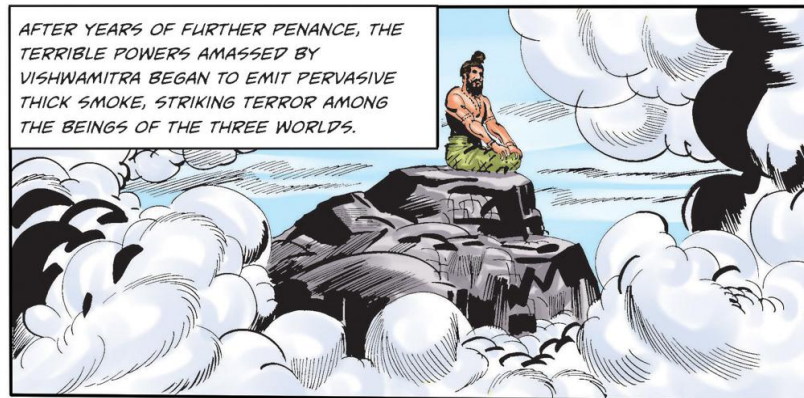
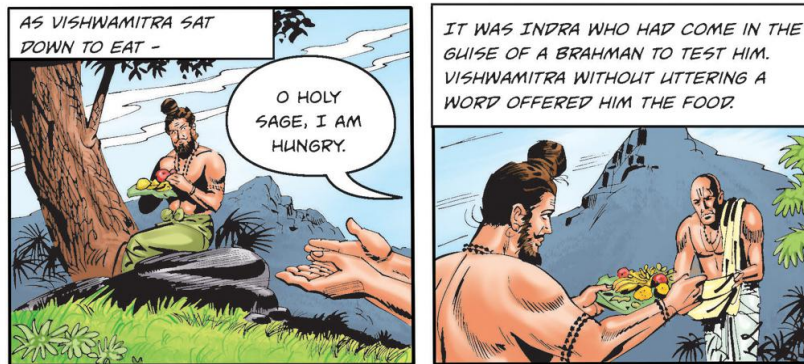
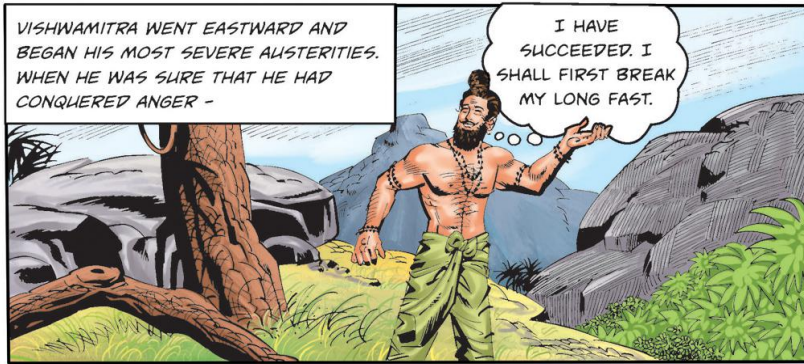


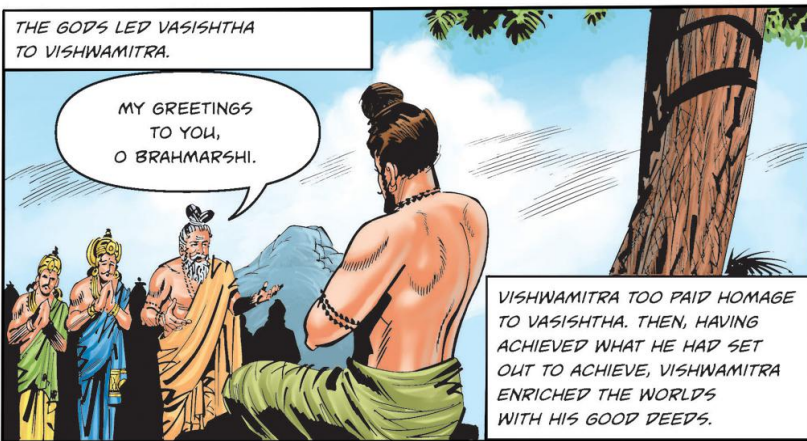
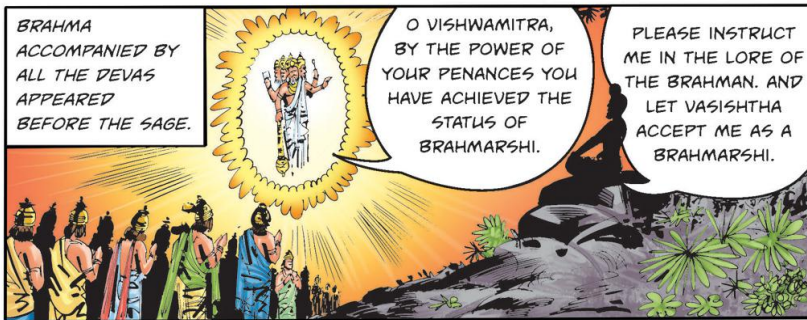
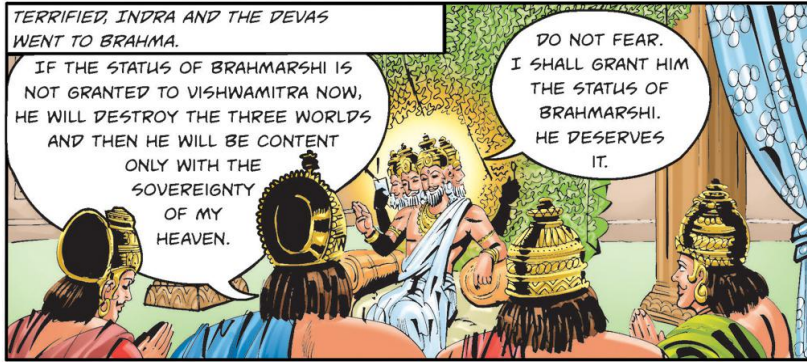
AND IN WINTER HE STOOD
IN THE MIDDLE OF A
COLD STREAM.











GAUTAMA AND AHALYA

GAUTAMA IS A DESCENDANT OF SAGE ANGIRASA,
ONE OF THE MIND-BORN SONS OF BRAHMA.



GAUTAMA LIVED ON THE
MOUNTAIN, BRAHMAGIRI, WITH
MANY OTHER SAGES AND
THEIR FAMILIES.



HE WAS MARRIED TO
AHALYA, KNOWN FOR HER
BEAUTY AND GRACE.



SHE WAS A PIOUS
WOMAN WHO HELPED
GAUTAMA IN CARRYING OUT
HIS DUTIES AS A SAGE.

GAUTAMA WAS A VERY
HUMBLE PERSON.

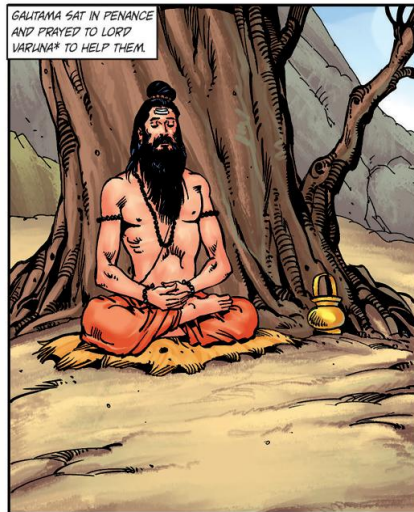
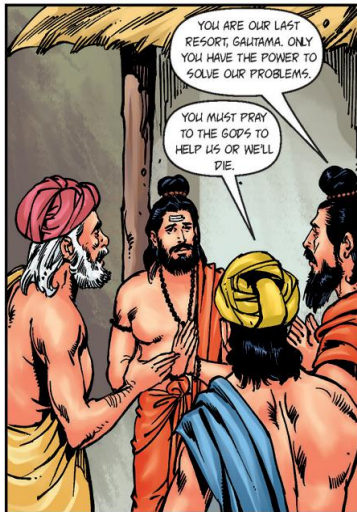


YOU ARE ONE OF THE
SAPTARSHI AND A NATURAL
LEADER OF THE SAGES.
BUT YOU ARE NOT STRICT
WITH THEM.

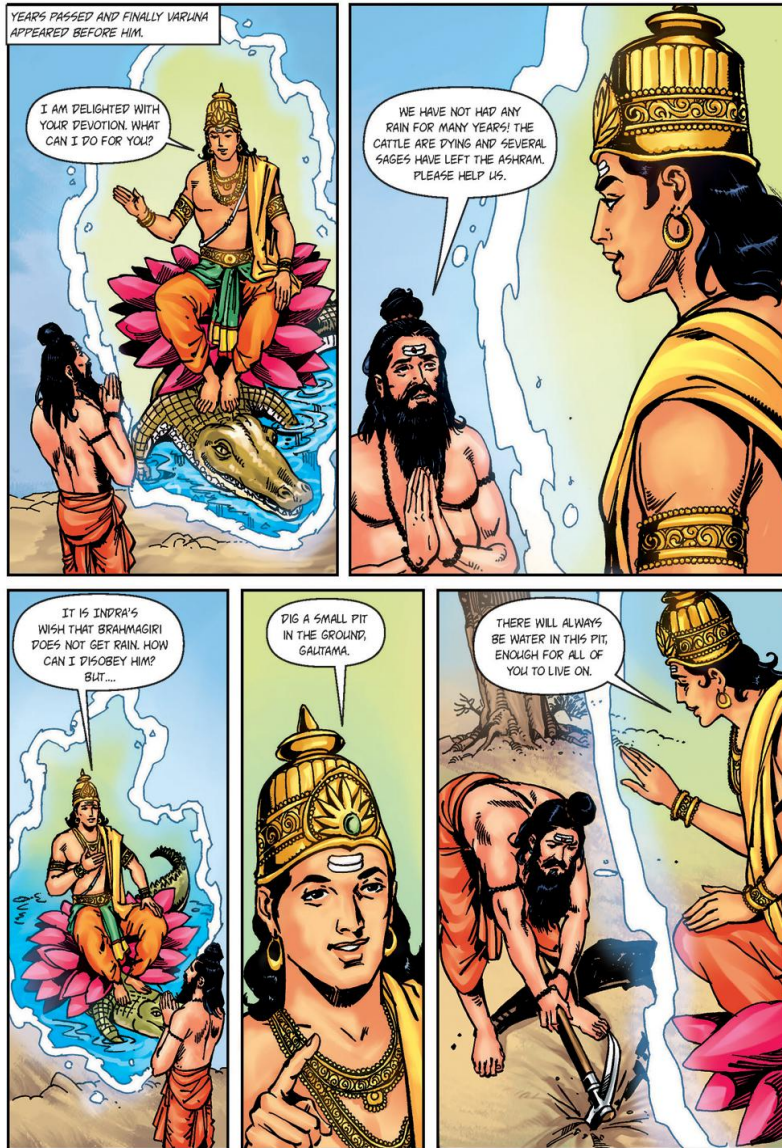
MY DUTY IS
TO SAFEGUARD
THE RISHIS
HERE, AHALYA.

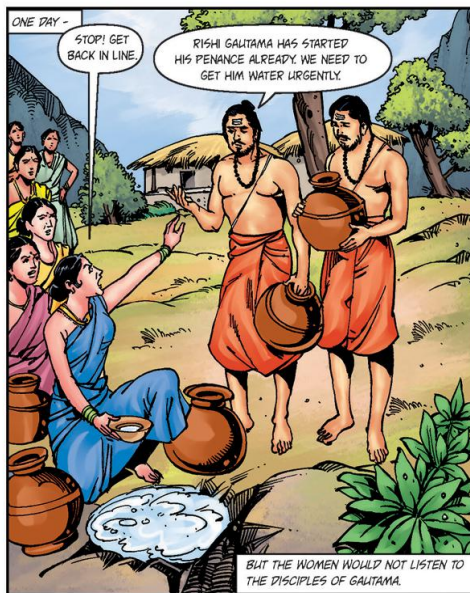
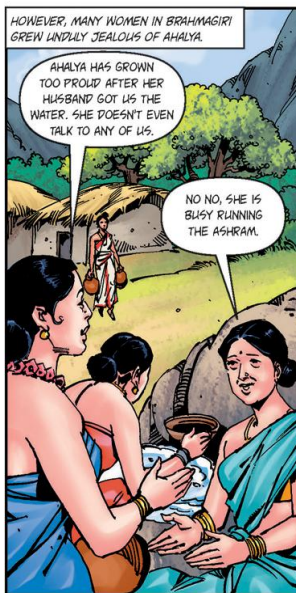


...NOT TO LORD
OVER THEM!

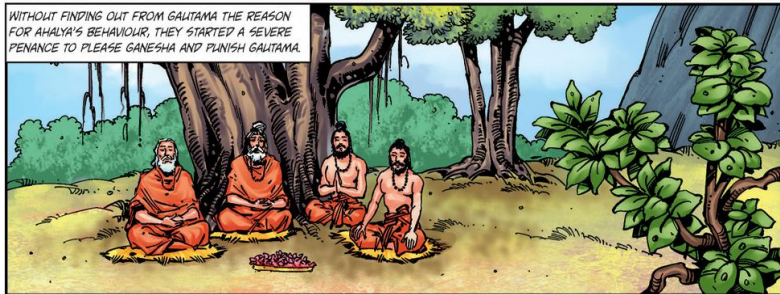
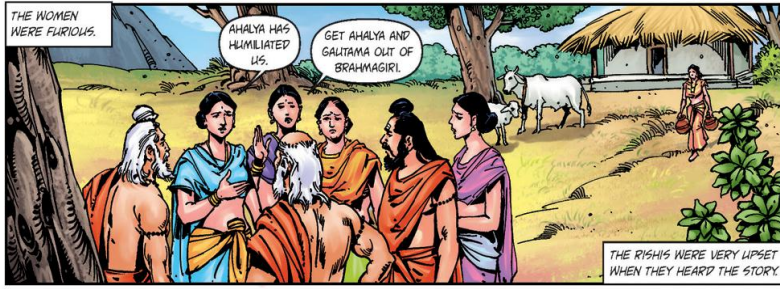


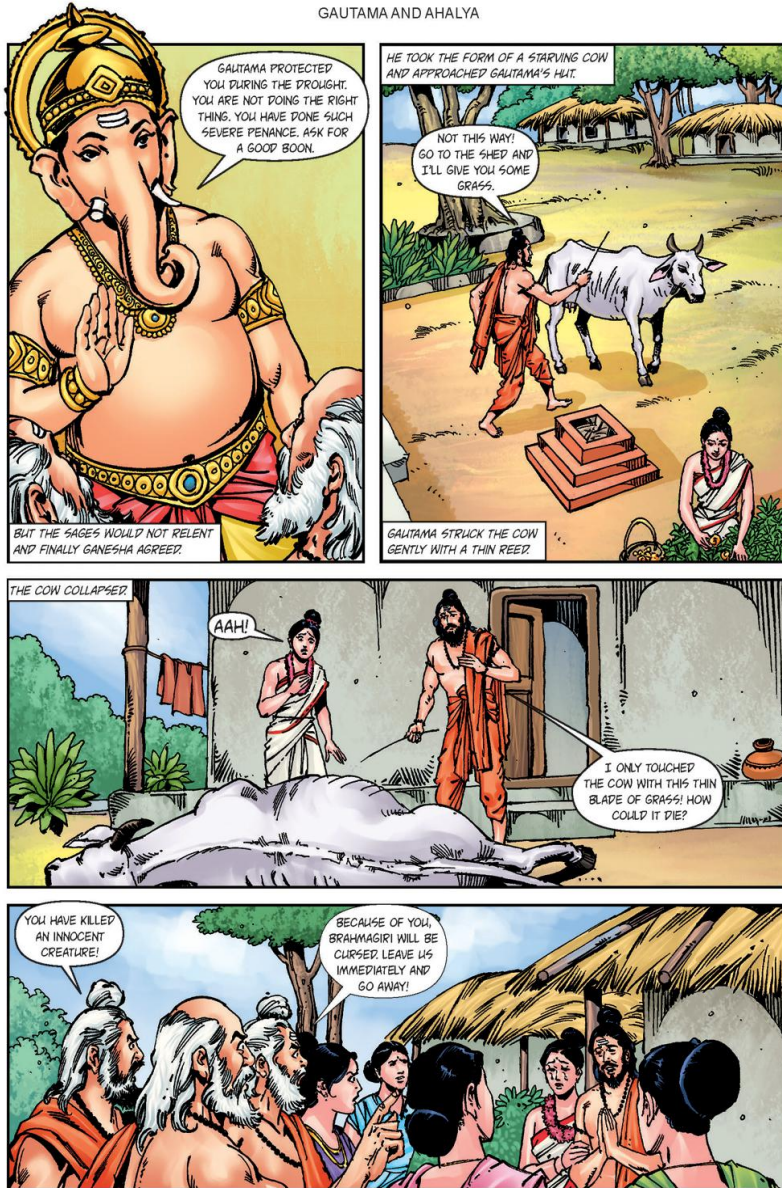
*VARUNA IS THE GOD OF ALL FORMS OF WATER, PARTICULARLY THE OCEANS.

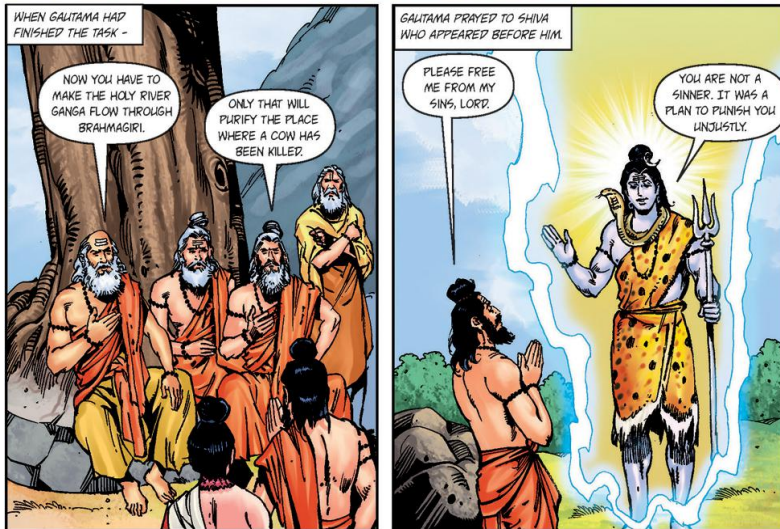


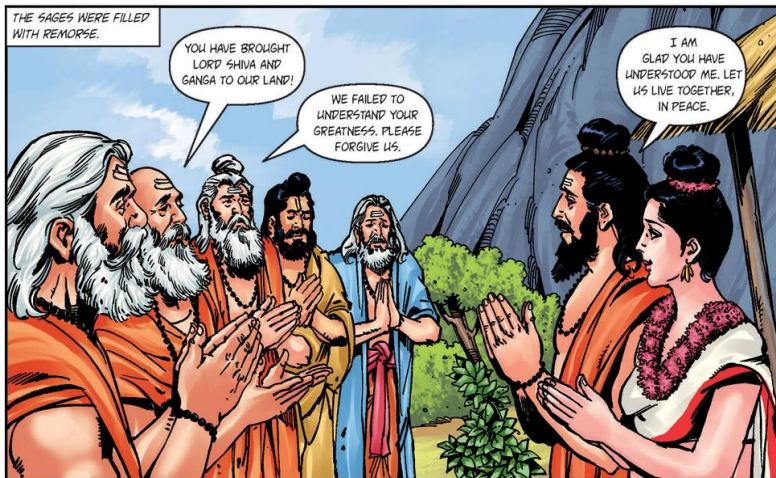
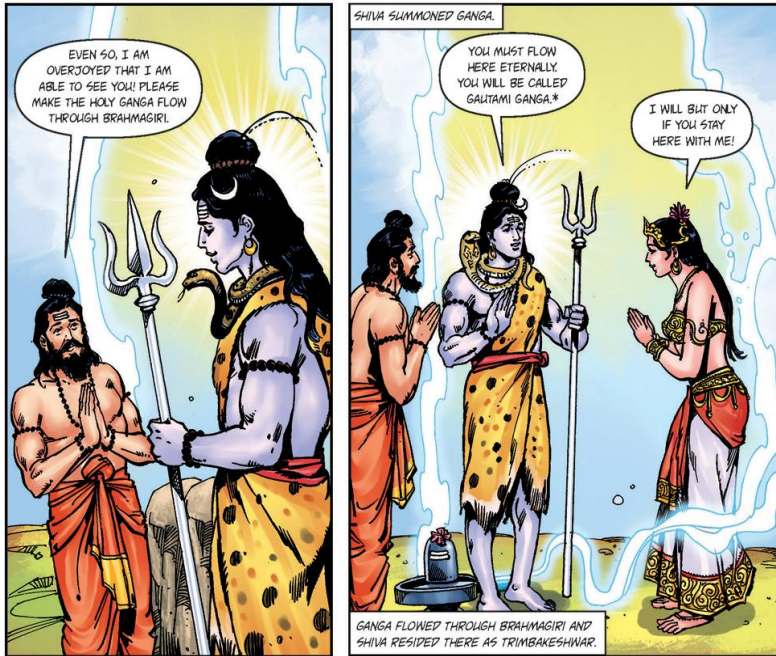




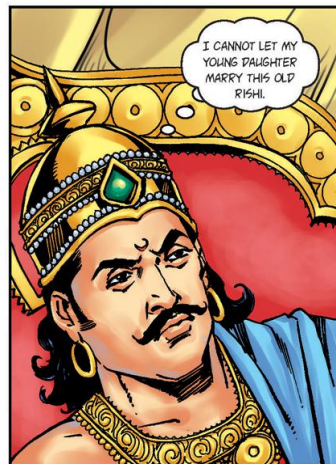
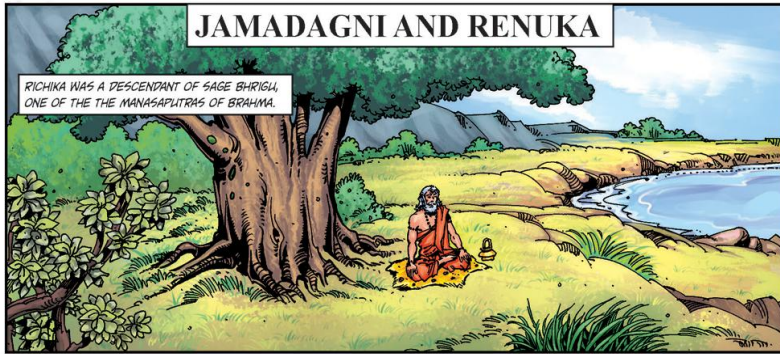


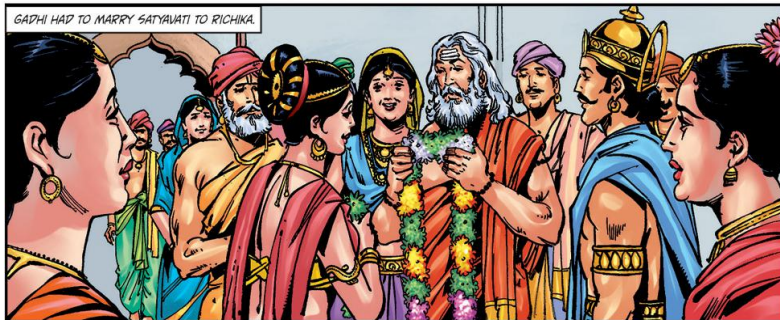


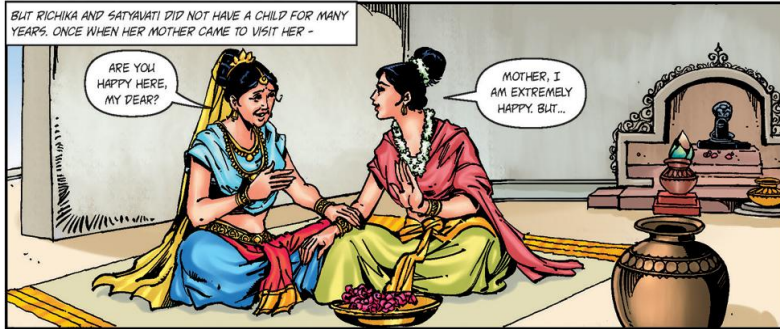


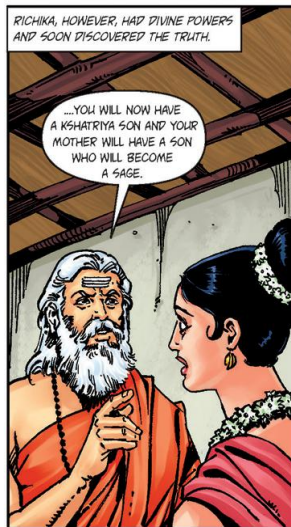
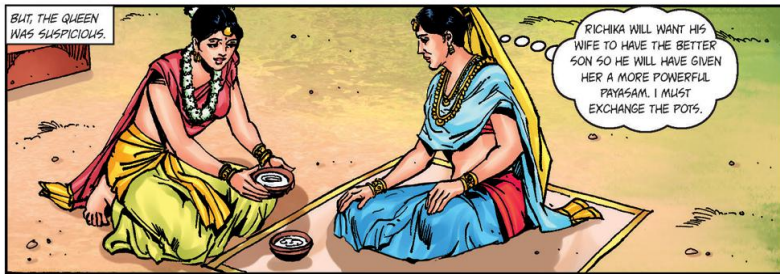


*GAUTAMI GANGA IS RIVER GODAVARI, ALSO CALLED DAKSHINA GANGA.

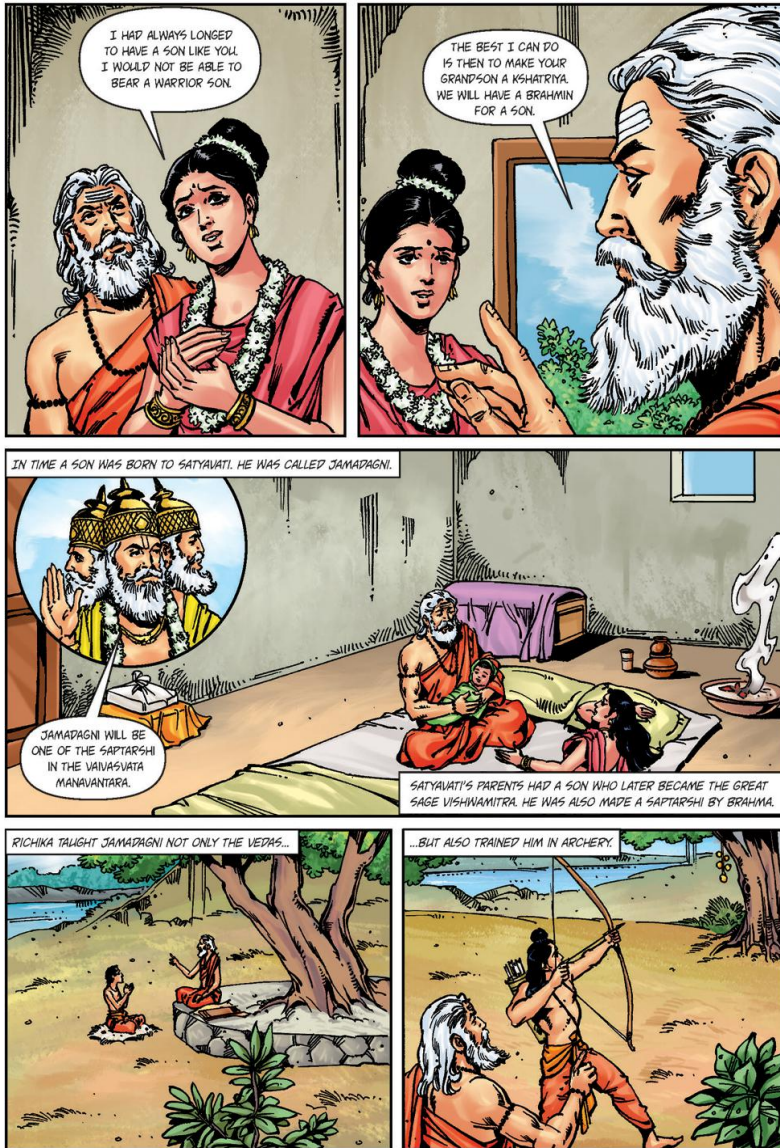




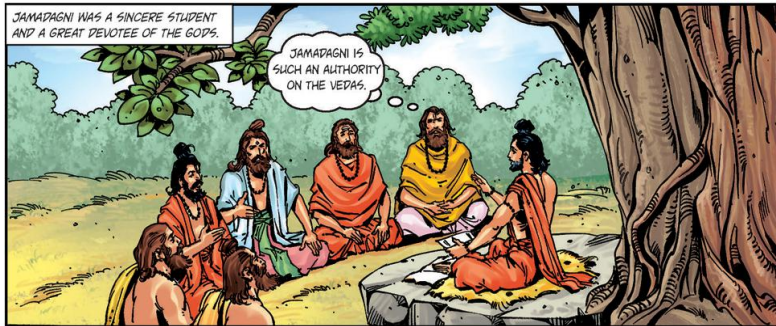


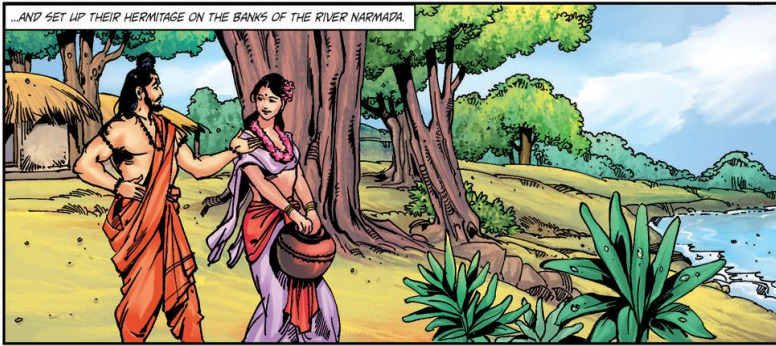


*MILK AND RICE PUDDING

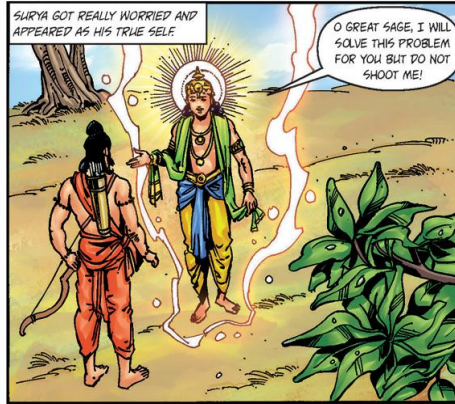


JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA

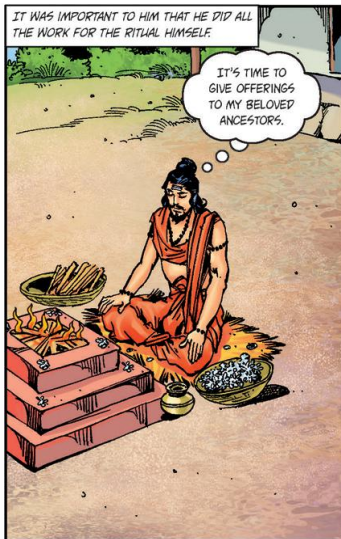
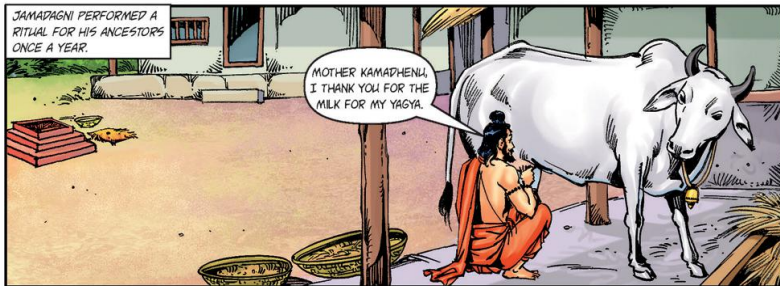
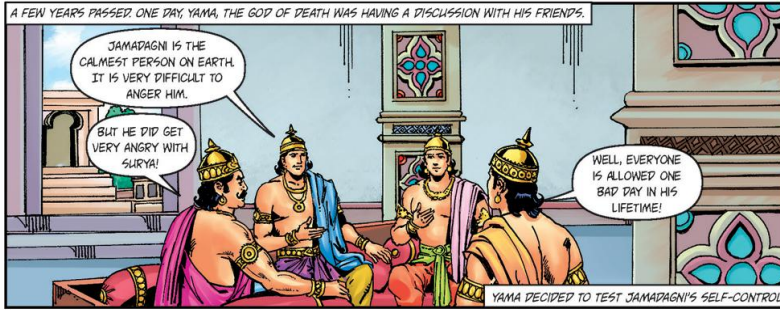




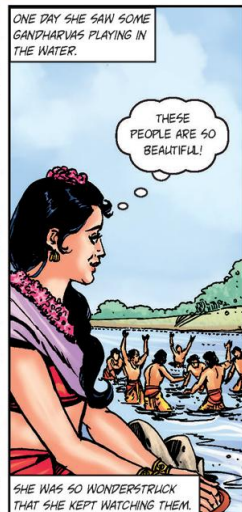




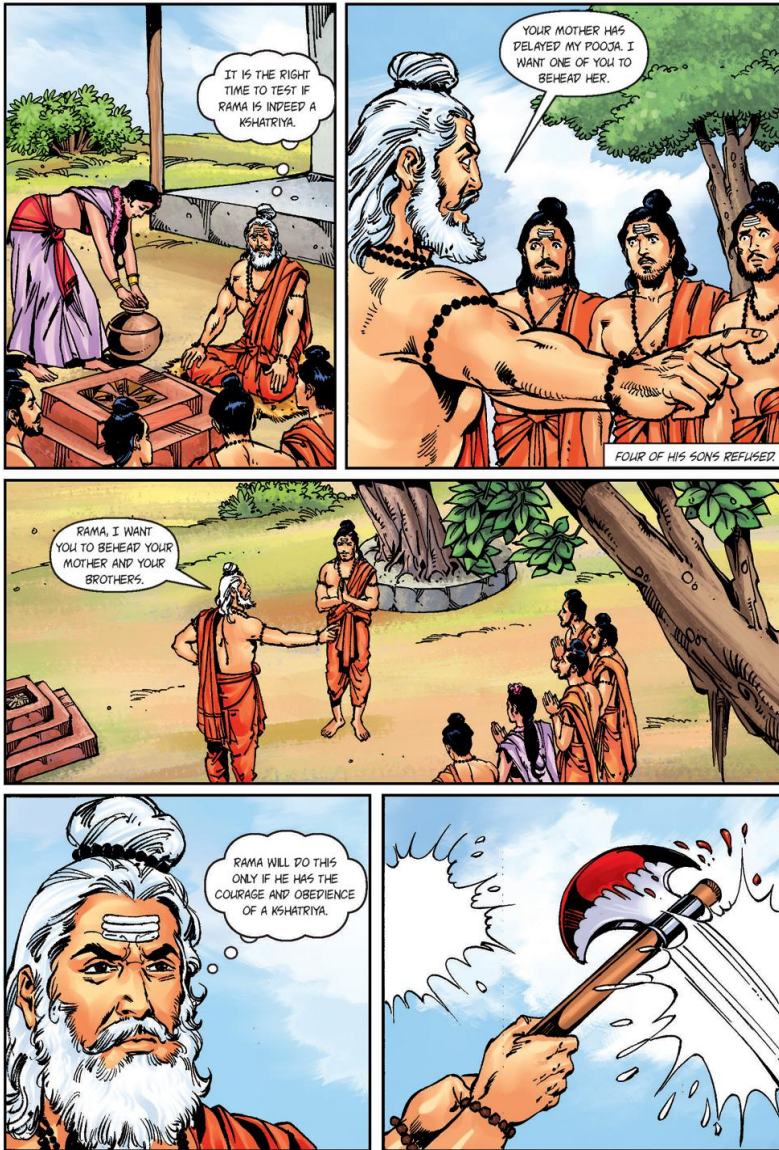
JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA

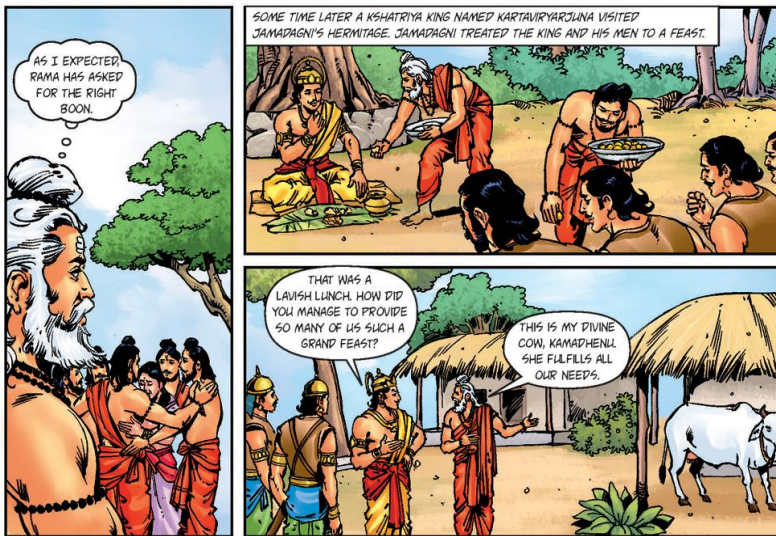
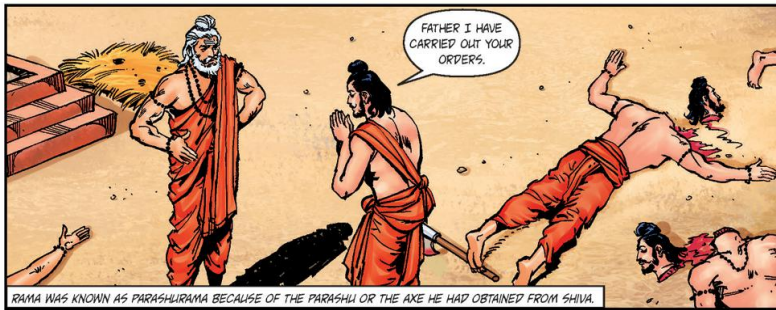


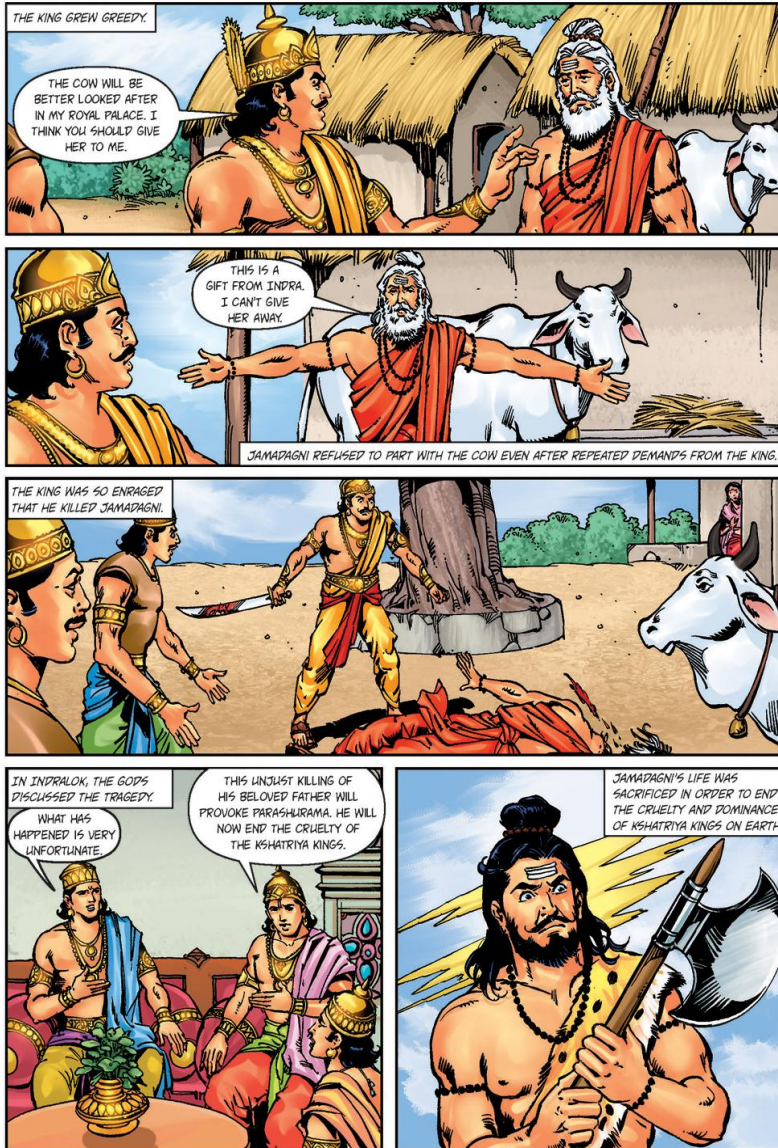




*VISHNU GETS BORN AS A HUMAN ON EARTH EVERY MANAVANTARA TO DESTROY EVIL AND ESTABLISH THE GOOD.







BHARADWAJA

KING BHARATA WAS VERY WORRIED.

I HAVE ALL THE HAPPINESS IN THIS WORLD EXCEPT THE JOY OF HOLDING MY OWN CHILD IN MY ARMS. WHO WILL RULE MY KINGDOM AFTER ME?

ON THE ADVICE OF HIS ROYAL PRIESTS HE CONDUCTED A SACRIFICE TO THE WIND GODS, THE MARUTAS, TO GRANT HIM A CHILD.

AT THE SAME TIME -

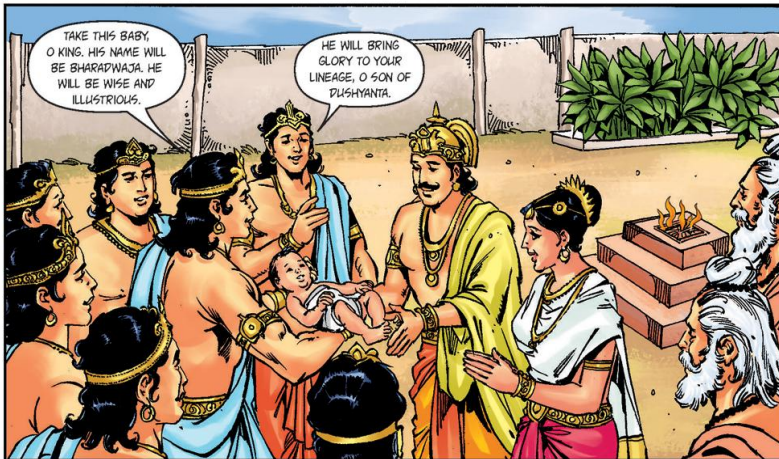
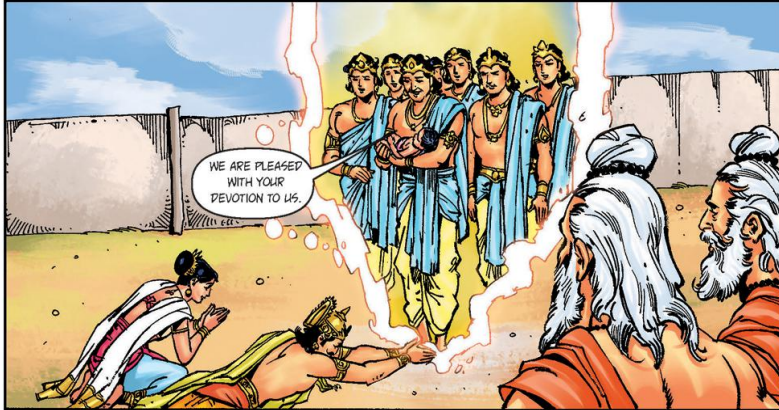
MAY YOU FIND SOMEONE WHO IS ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

THE COUPLE LEFT THE NEW-BORN CHILD AND WENT AWAY.

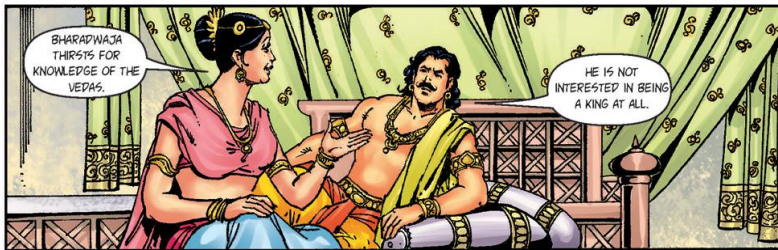
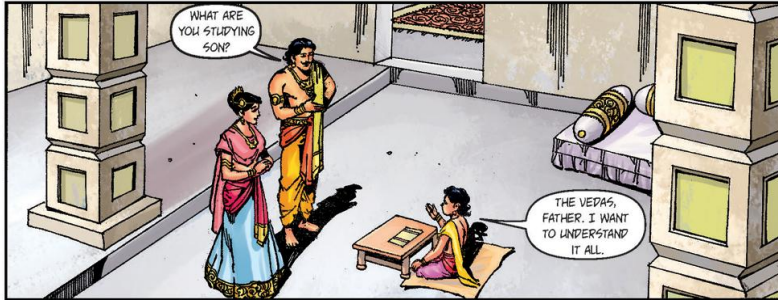
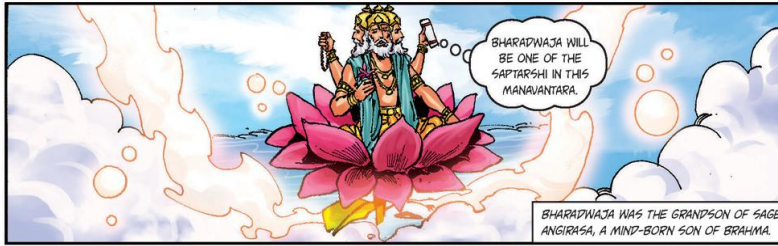
THE MARUTAS SAW THE CHILD AND CAME TO IT.

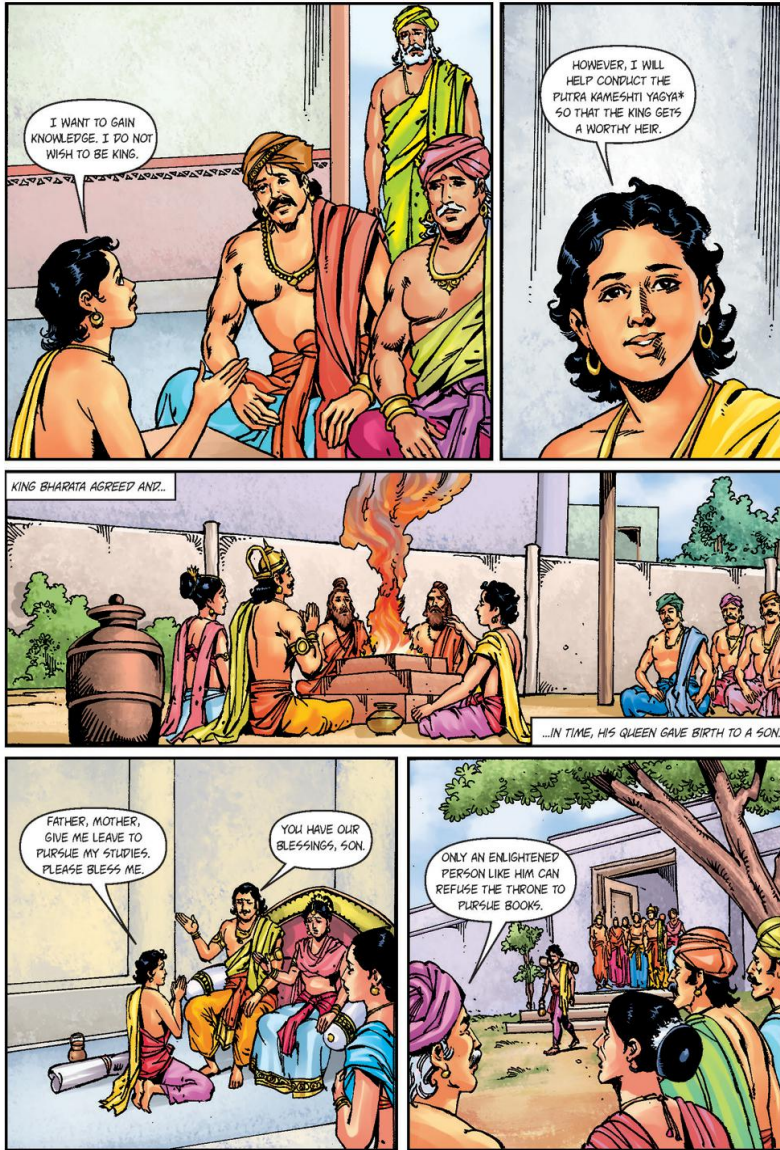
WHAT A BRIGHT AND HANDSOME CHILD!

THIS IS THE CHILD OF THE GREAT SAGE BRIHASPATI.

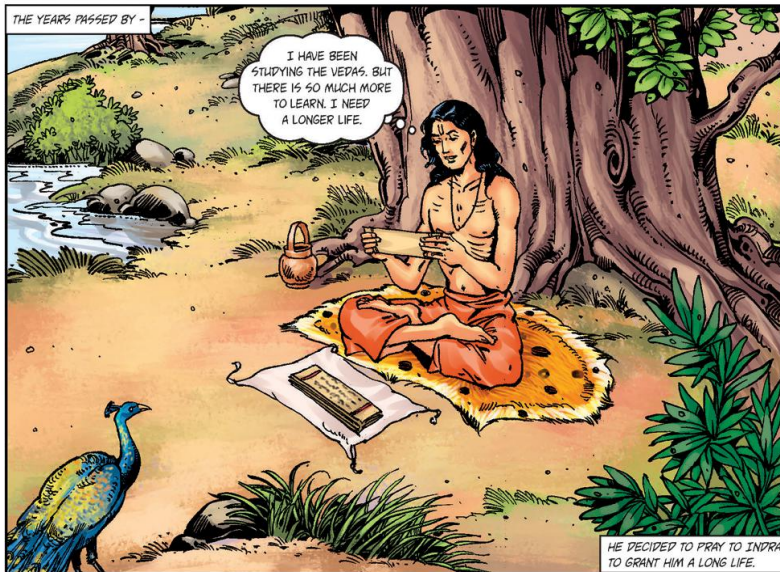
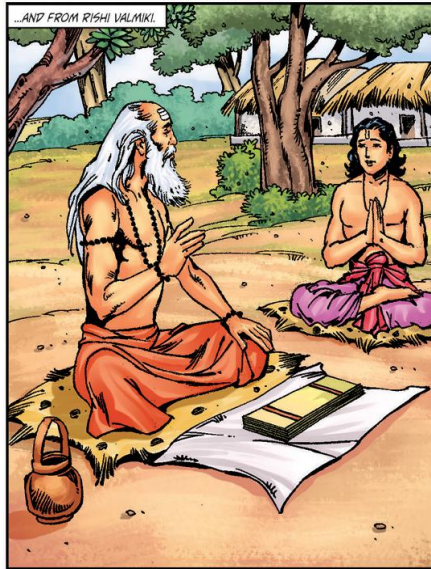


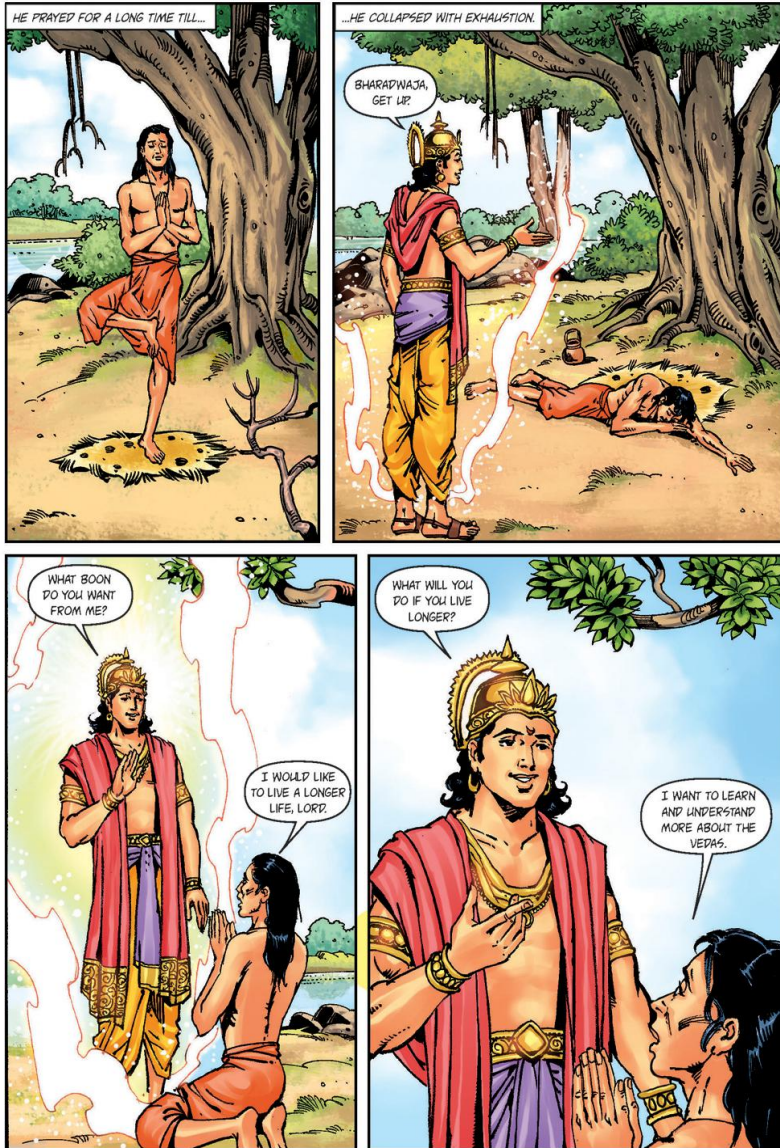
BHARADWAJA

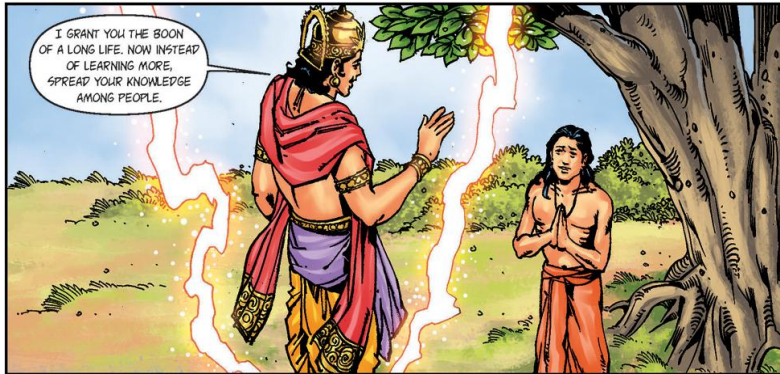
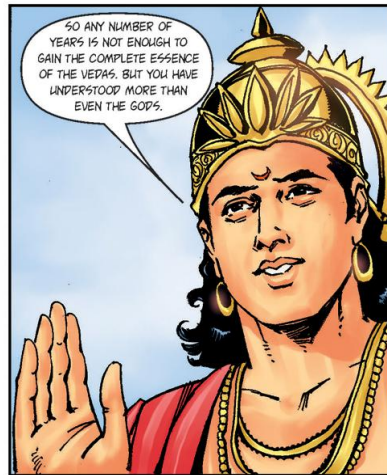
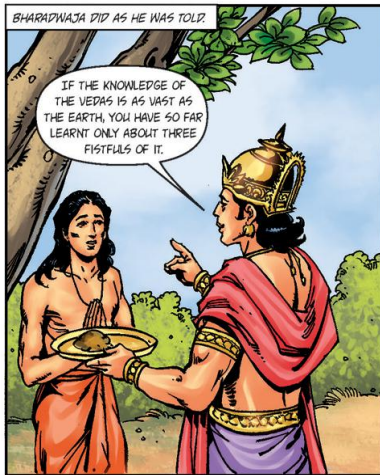


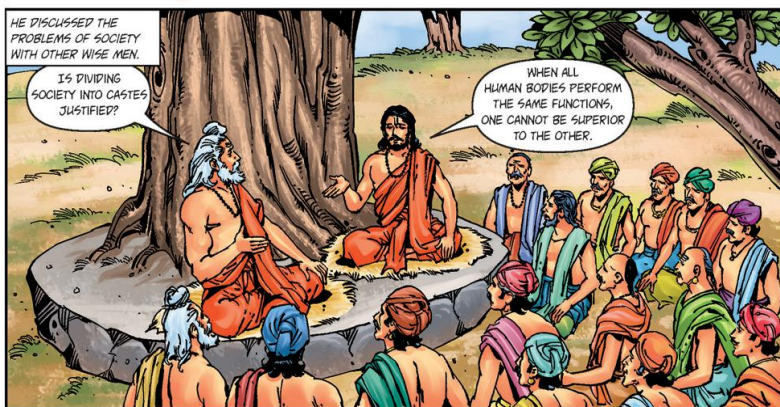
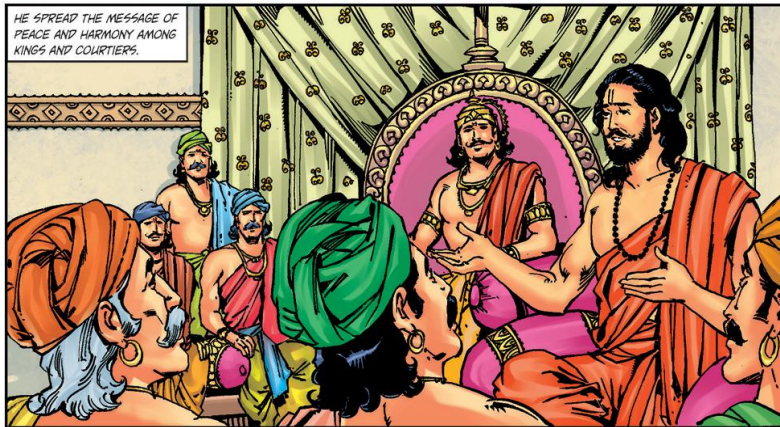


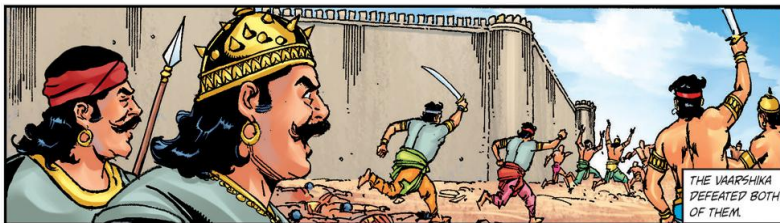
*A SACRIFICE CONDUCTED TO OBTAIN SONS

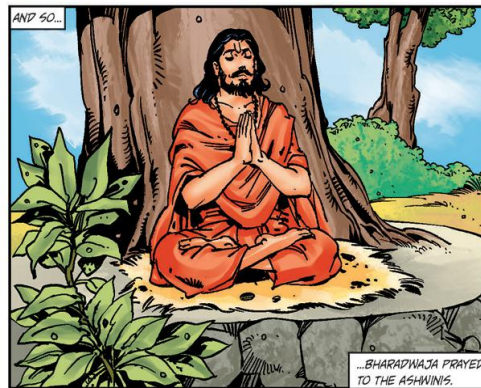
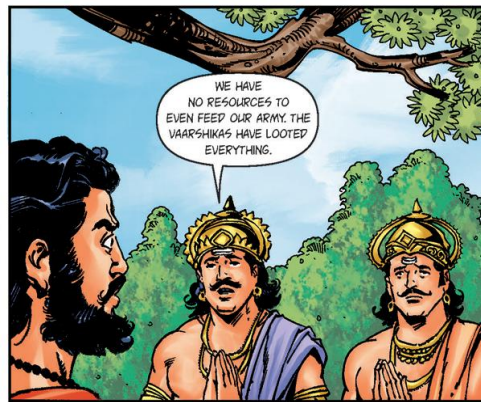
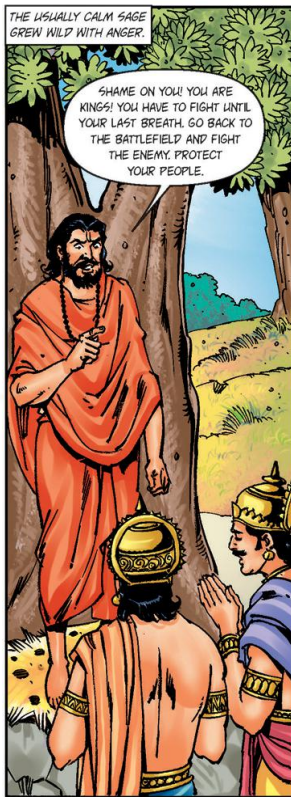
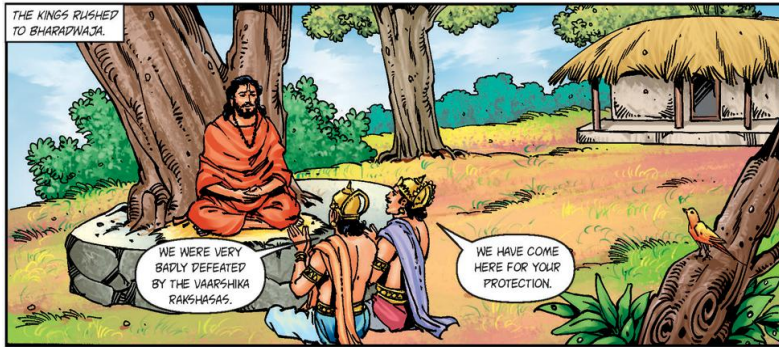






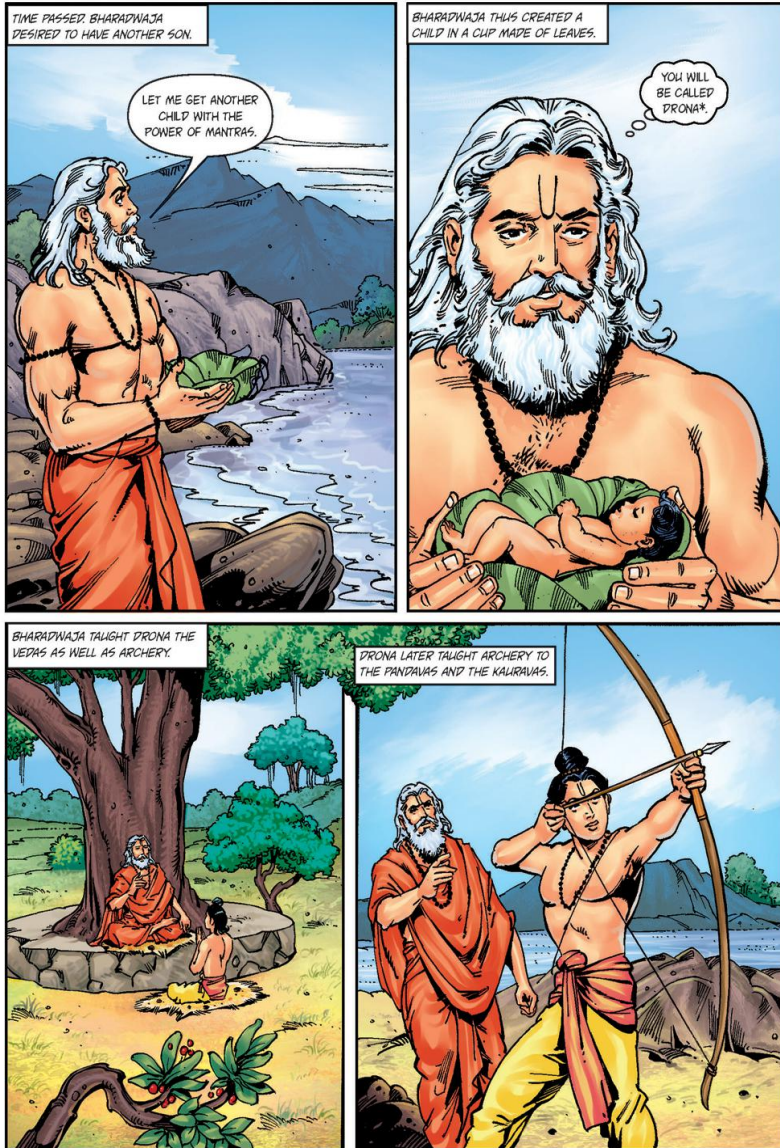




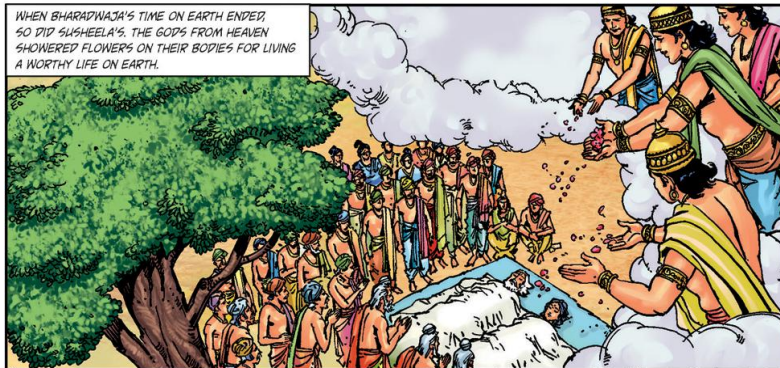
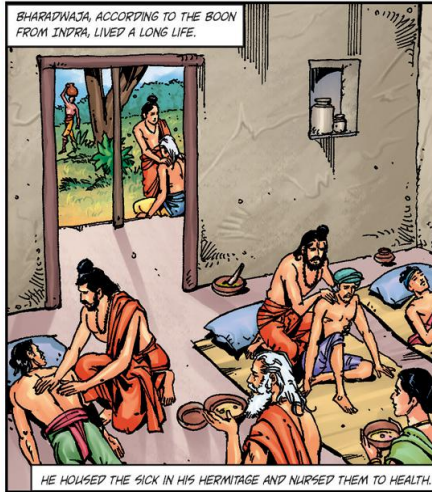
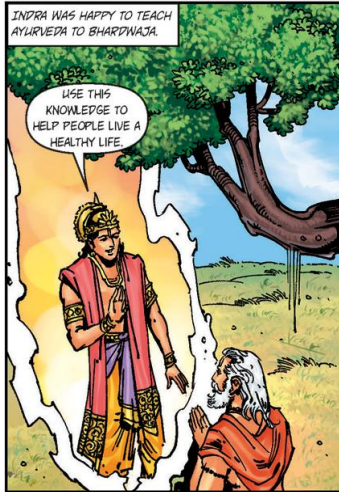








*DRONA MEANS A CUP MADE OF LEAVES.



SAPTARSHI

The Seven Supreme Sages

In Indian mythology the concept of time is measured in a manvantara. Each manvantara is allotted seven exceptional sages by Brahma, who represent supreme knowledge and righteousness.

Amar Chitra Katha has captured stories from the inspiring and remarkable lives of the seven sages chosen to represent the current manvantara.

Atri, the first of the Saptarshis, is a mindborn son of Brahma. So enduring was his life and presence, that he played a role in the events of The Ramayana as well as The Mahabharata.

Vasishtha was the voice of wisdom and honesty during the time he spent advising the kings of the Solar dynasty. The mutual respect he shared with his admirable wife, Arundhati, was reflected in their exemplary marriage.

Tasked by Brahma to populate the Earth, Kashyapa is considered the father of all living beings. The origin of all creatures can be traced back to Kashyapa and his wives.

The proud King Kaushika's troubled relationship with Sage Vasishtha gave rise to his transformation into the accomplished sage, Vishwamitra.

Gautama and his wife, Ahalya, overcame the mistrust and insults of the people of Brahmagiri and brought Ganga to the parched land.

Jamadagni, who was a proficient student of the Vedas, was chosen by Vishnu to be his father during his avatar as Parashurama.

Bharadwaja's thirst of knowledge was so great that he prayed to Indra for a long life so he had enough time to learn. With Indra's blessing he spread the knowledge he gained, around the world.

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